Bengaluru Tuesday, June 16, 2026 Pages 16 Vol 79 No 166 ₹7

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DH

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The Power of Good

## CJP founder Dipke slapped during Jaipur protest

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India, Slovakia upgrade ties to comprehensive partnership P.8

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UK announces ban on social media for kids under 16 P.10

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# US, Iran reach deal to end war, reopen strategic Strait of Hormuz

**PEACE MOVE:** Formal signing on Friday; Israel says forces will remain in Lebanon

WASHINGTON/TEHRAN/ DUBAI, AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump, Vice President JD Vance and Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf electronically signed a deal to end the West Asia war, senior US officials said on Monday, adding that a signing ceremony would take place on Friday and shipping traffic in the Strait of Hormuz would gradually ramp up.

Speaking shortly after arriving in Evian, France, for a G7 meeting, Trump said the text of the deal will be released sometime after the formal signing and the strategic strait will be fully open by Friday.

The US and mediator Pakistan said the agreement was to be signed in Switzerland, with Saudi Arabia and other regional powers hailing the deal. Ordinary Iranians voiced hope it could restore calm.

Trump later said Vance will lead the delegation for the in-person signing of the deal in Switzerland.

Few details of the deal were made public, but Trump said the Strait of Hormuz, a key conduit for global oil supplies that Iran has blockaded since the start of the war, would reopen.

"The Deal with the Islamic Republic of Iran is now complete," Trump said on Sunday.

Soon afterwards, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said in televised comments that the deal put an "immediate end" to the war and that they would hold talks within two months to seek a "final agreement".

Iran's military hailed the agreement as a victory, claiming that it had "humiliated" the US and Israel in the war that began on February 28.

On the other hand, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the joint US-Israeli campaign had spared his country from what he described as the Islamic republic's threat of "nuclear annihilation". "The most important thing is that we saved the State of Israel from the threat of nuclear annihilation," Netanyahu said, in what were his first comments after the US and Iran agreed to a deal.

Defence Minister Israel Katz, however, said Israeli forces would remain in Lebanon, Syria and Gaza indefinitely.

▸ US and Iran, Page 4

### What we know about the US-Iran MoU

1. Few details of the framework officially released
2. Framework is precursor to **60 days** of negotiations on key disputes, including Iran's nuclear programme
3. Trump says talks ongoing over whether Iran would suspend its enrichment for **20 years,** but hinted he might settle for 15 years
4. Iran's media says **'14-point' agreement provides for permanent** & immediate cessation of war on all fronts, including Lebanon
5. US will **lift naval blockade on Iran's ports** and coastlines, withdraw its forces from vicinity of Iran
6. Iran will reopen Strait of Hormuz within **30 days**
7. Iranian media says Tehran had added imposition of **'service fee' in Hormuz;** US Vice President JD Vance says they expect the strait would reopen toll-free
8. Envisages **release of $24 billion in frozen Iranian assets** during a 60-day negotiation period; half of the amount will be released before talks begin
9. Iran's deputy foreign minister says final talks will only start after **US fulfils key commitments**
10. Suspension of sanctions on **sale of Iranian oil, petrochemical** products

The Deal with the Islamic Republic of Iran is now complete. Ships of the World, start your engines. Let the oil flow!
**DONALD TRUMP,** US President

**What's unclear?**

- Whether negotiations will address Iran's missile programme
- Iran's support for groups, such as Hezbollah and Houthis, opposed to Israel

A drone view shows vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, as seen from Musandam, Oman, on Monday. REUTERS

## Trump winds down the war he started with goals unmet

NYT NEWS SERVICE

Almost immediately after striking a deal with Iran, President Donald Trump appeared eager to take a victory lap.

He trumpeted that the agreement would open the Strait of Hormuz. He said his efforts had saved Israel from nuclear extinction and made West Asia safer. It all gave him a key win as he traveled to France for the G7 summit, where he will meet with European leaders who have criticised his approach to the war.

Despite Trump's grandiose claims, the agreement has not yet achieved the core goals he laid out three months ago for launching the US-Israeli war against Iran.

Back then, Trump said the US intended to "annihilate" Iran's military capabilities, abolish its nuclear ambitions, topple its theocratic leadership.

Trump publicly declared victory Sunday mainly based on solving a problem of his own making, in miscalculating Iran's ability to choke off the Strait of Hormuz. Trump asserted he had authorised the toll-free opening of the waterway, which would essentially restore the prewar status quo.

▸ Trump, Page4

## Modi welcomes agreement

**PM Narendra Modi on Monday welcomed the understanding reached between the US and Iran on ending the conflict in West Asia, and hoped it will help ensure the freedom of navigation.**
**Details on Page 8**

## Indian LNG carrier transits

**Indian-flagged LNG carrier Disha has successfully navigated the Strait of Hormuz, marking the first such transit by an Indian vessel in more than three months.**
**Details on Page 8**

**De-escalation promises deal closures for IT firms | P12** **Won't withdraw from Lebanon territory: Israel | P10** **Israel counts the ways that Bibi's strategy failed | P10**

# 'Explain legal status, income': K'taka HM to RSS

## Bhagwat terms demand to register political gimmick

BENGALURU/ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Home Minister Priyank Kharge has formally sought an explanation from Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Sarsanghachalak Dr Mohan Bhagwat on the organisation's legal status and "sources of donations, contributions and income".

In a letter to Bhagwat, Priyank has asked the RSS to depute "authorised office-bearers" to explain the legal grounds on which it functions.

Extending his congratulations to the RSS on completing 100 years, Priyank acknowledged its "significant presence in public life and society".

Quoting the RSS' annual report, the minister pointed out that the organisation has 60,000 shakhas (camps) nationally. In Karnataka, the RSS has 4,127 daily shakhas, 1,389 weekly and 60 monthly meet-ups.

"It is precisely because of this scale, influence and reach that the RSS must be held to the highest standards of transparency, accountability and constitutional compliance," Priyank has argued.

Meanwhile, during an event in Kerala, Bhagawat said that the organisation had nothing to hide and conducted its activities openly. Terming the demand to legally register as a 'politics gimmick', Bhagwat said such attempts were nothing new for the organisation.

"These are all politics. The intention is to create doubt among the people, which is not possible. RSS is not functioning secretly. It conducts shakhas and other meetings in open places. Hence, the demand to register need not be considered seriously," he said.

▸ RSS, Page 4

> An organisation that regularly evokes nationalism, discipline and duty must also demonstrate these values through transparency, compliance and respect for the Constitution
> **- Priyank Kharge**

> The intention is to create doubt among the people. RSS is not functioning secretly. It conducts shakhas and other meetings in open places. Hence, the demand to register need not be considered seriously
> **- Mohan Bhagwat**

## RTI activism a business, says SC as it rejects bail to 2

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** The Supreme Court on Monday observed that "RTI activism" has turned into a "business" that obstructs public servants from performing their duties, as it refused anticipatory bail to two men accused of obstructing a government road construction project.

A bench of Justices Sandeep Mehta and Vijay Bishnoi made the remarks while dismissing the plea of the two accused, who claimed they were highlighting corruption in a road project involving Rs 57 crore released by the Union government.

"You obstructed public servants from performing their duties. It's become a new business. You don't allow people to work... Who are you to monitor all these road progress and all? Are you an engineer there or superior authority? Are you an authorised representative of public?" the bench said.

When the counsel for the accused argued that they were raising concerns over irregularities, the court said it was for the authorities to look into such matters.

▸ RTI activism, Page 4

## KBG set to take charge as B'luru development minister today

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Ending days of uncertainty, Krishna Byre Gowda is set to formally assume charge as the Greater Bengaluru development minister on Tuesday, sources said. Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) and the Bangalore Metropolitan Region Development Authority (BMRDA) will continue to remain under the CM's control. Gowda had deferred taking charge of the crucial portfolio because it carried limited responsibilities and key agencies such as BDA and BMRDA were out of its ambit. Page 3

## Bengaluru's Sarvam AI enters unicorn club

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Bengaluru-based full-stack sovereign AI company is now the country's newest AI unicorn with the recent $234 million funding.

This recent fundraising is the first close of its $300 million Series B at a post-money valuation of $1.5 billion.

The investment will fund Sarvam's continued research on training its next frontier model for agentic, coding and cybersecurity use-cases, as well as access to compute at scale.
Details on Page 12

Foxden Liquor Garage's 'Mara' restobar was gutted in a fire mishap, in Mysuru, on Monday. DH PHOTO

## 2 killed in fire at Mysuru restobar

MYSURU, DHNS

Two people were killed, and six others sustained serious injuries after a fire broke out in a restobar in Mysuru on Monday.

The restobar is owned by actor Preetham Puneeth. He also suffered minor injuries in the incident.

The deceased have been identified as Sahin (26) from Manipur and Prakash (24) of Nepal. Both were employed in the restobar. According to officials, the mishap occurred at the Foxden Liquor Garage's 'Mara' Bar and Restaurant in Dattagalli, allegedly due to a short circuit at around 3 pm.

The blaze spread rapidly, engulfing large portions of the building and creating panic among customers and staff, said City Police Commissioner Seema Latkar.

"The two deceased are from other states. Their families have been informed. This will be brought to the notice of Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and a suitable compensation will be sought," said MLA G T Devegowda.

DC G Lakshmikanth Reddy, DCPs Harsha Priyamvada, K S Sundar Raj, and MCC Commissioner Sheikh Tanveer Asif visited the spot.

A detailed investigation has been launched to ascertain the exact cause of the incident, said officials.

## On Bidadi, Jarkiholi says no project should 'damage' party

**BENGALURU DHNS:** Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi on Monday voiced concerns over the farmers' agitation against the proposed Bidadi township and said that the project should not "damage" the party and government.

Satish Jarkiholi

This is the first word of caution coming from within CM D K Shivakumar's Cabinet even as the Opposition BJP and JD(S) are cranking up pressure on the government to drop the project, which involves acquiring farmlands.

The state government has already issued a final notification for acquisition of 518 acres of land for the township project, which requires 7,400 acres.

"The party's future depends on this. There shouldn't be unnecessary confusion," Satish told reporters when asked about farmers opposing the proposed Bidadi township.

▸ Jarkiholi, Page 4

HERITAGE HOUSE

## Historians call for turning Kumara Krupa into museum

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

The move to turn the 160-year-old Kumara Krupa guest house into Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's official residence has received widespread criticism from the city's historians, with many calling for the building to be converted into a museum which will eventually ensure that the space is preserved for posterity.

Kumara Krupa was originally the private residence of K Sheshadri Iyer, the Dewan of Mysore from 1883 to 1901 and a key figure in Bengaluru's transformation into a modern city.

Widely regarded as the 'maker of modern Bengaluru', Sheshadri Iyer spearheaded several landmark initiatives, including the city's piped water supply from Hesaraghatta, the Shivanasamudra hydroelectric project, and the development of Basavanagudi and Malleswaram, among other projects.

"The property has already undergone enough damage from functioning as a guest house. Ideally, the property should neither be renovated to house the new chief minister nor continue as a guest house. Instead, it should be converted into a museum. A memorial space paying homage to K Sheshadri's life," said historian Suresh Moona, adding that any renovations to satisfy personal preferences such as vaastu would negatively impact the heritage value of the property. The Kumara Krupa guesthouse was built in 1856, and some additional rooms were added in 1960. There are a total of 12 rooms in the guesthouse.

"The Kumara Krupa grounds are historic. There is evidence that Mahatma Gandhi spent time in these very grounds when he visited Bengaluru. The place should pay homage to the significant history the area has witnessed in the form of a museum. Not only the stone structure, but the entire area must be shielded from commercialisation," said Arun Prasad, history researcher.

Days before taking oath as CM, D K Shivakumar inspected the guesthouse and ordered "immediate renovation". (Right) Tiles being removed from a room. DH PHOTO/M S MANJUNATH

▸ Kumara Krupa, Page 4

Transforming
India through
Modern Infrastructure
12 Saal
Vishwas ke, Vikas ke, Jan-Kalyan ke
164 Vande Bharat Trains making railway travel modern and high-speed
Construction of Mega Infrastructure Projects like Atal Setu, Sudarshan Setu, Chenab Rail Bridge and Bogibeel Bridge
Government of Bharat
CBC 37101/13/0001/2627

# First suburban train in Nov '27; luggage racks, cycle stands likely

## ICF to supply 306 metro-style coaches; designing underway

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The first train for the Bengaluru Suburban Transport Project (BSTP) is expected to arrive in November 2027, ahead of the commissioning of Corridor 2.

The trains — to be configured in three-, six- and nine-coach sets—will feature bench seats running along the walls, with passengers facing the centre aisle, similar to metro trains. But unlike the metro, these stainless steel coaches will likely have luggage racks under or above the seats, along with cycle stands.

All 306 coaches for the 148-km project will be supplied by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai.

On May 6, project implementation agency Bengaluru Integrated Rail Infrastructure Development Enterprise Limited (Bi-RIDE) issued the work order to ICF for supplying 153 coaches for Corridors 2 and 4.

The contract includes obtaining statutory approvals from the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO). The trains will use 25kV overhead traction, like Indian Railways rakes.

"The first (prototype) train will arrive by November 2027. Thereafter, three trains (of three coaches each) will arrive every month," Bi-RIDE Managing Director Lakshman Singh told *DH*. "We plan to open the first line in December 2028 and will have enough trains by then. Initially, three-coach trains will run at a peak-hour frequency of five minutes to make the service reliable and attract passengers."

Passenger amenities like luggage racks and bicycle stands will be finalised once the design and technical specificiations covering braking, propulsion systems, coach weight and other details are decided, he added.

An artist's impression of a Bengaluru suburban train.

A second Bi-RIDE official said each three-coach trainset would have a crush load of 1,000, the maximum number of people it can carry at a time.

The trains will cost Rs 4,270.30 crore, with the state government and the railways sharing the cost equally. The state granted an exemption under Section 4(g) of the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act to procure the coaches from ICF without floating tenders.

The Railway Board has given in-principle clearance for cost-sharing but Union Cabinet approval is pending. Singh said that would happen in due course.

The second official said that since the ICF is a government agency, it would not be issued a Letter of Acceptance (LoA). An MoU will be signed instead. Orders for the remaining 153 coaches for Corridors 1 and 3 will be placed later, he added.

Meanwhile, Bi-RIDE plans to float tenders in July for the remaining 24.34-km section of Corridor 4 (Heelalige-Rajanukunte, 46.88 km). Tenders for another 22.54-km section, floated in May, will be opened on June 29, sources said.

Contracts for two packages on Corridor 2 (Baiyappanahalli-Chikkabanavara, 25.01 km) have been awarded to PJB Engineers Pvt Ltd and the PJB-CVCC joint venture.

The tender for the remaining package — a 7.795-km elevated line between Benniganahalli and Shettihalli, including a 1.11-km double-decker section—was re-floated after only NCC Ltd submitted a bid.

Bi-RIDE plans to float tenders for the crucial Corridor 1 (KSR Bengaluru-Devanahalli/Airport, 49.9 km) between November 2026 and February 2027 once 90% of land acquisition is completed, Singh said.

"Revenue authorities are currently conducting the JMC (Joint Measurement Certificate) survey. Land acquisition takes about a year as eight notifications have to be issued, with stipulated time gaps," he explained.

Bi-RIDE aims to open Corridor 2 by December 2028 and Corridor 4 by June 2029. The deadline for Corridor 1 and Corridor 3 (Kengeri-Whitefield, 35.52 km) is March 2030.

### Depot tender

On June 12, Bi-RIDE floated tenders to build the train maintenance depot at Soladevanahalli at an estimated cost of Rs 200.03 crore and a 24-month deadline. The depot will receive the prototype and serve both corridors 2 and 4.

Located close to the proposed Peripheral Ring Road (PRR), the depot will have six stabling lines, six inspection, and four repair lines.

Commuters make their way through floodwaters on Kempegowda Road in Rajarajeshwari Nagar after heavy rain battered Bengaluru on Sunday. Inadequate drainage and civic neglect have left the stretch vulnerable to repeated waterlogging. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

# GBA, traffic police identify and fix 107 waterlogging spots

## 80 more to be cleared in a week

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) and Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) officials have identified close to 80 waterlogging-prone spots across the city, of which 107 have been fixed.

GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao said the pending 70 to 80 spots would be fixed within a week.

"The officials have been asked to take up work at these spots on priority and we are confident that the works will be completed within the next one week," he said.

Most of these spots have been identified under the Bengaluru Central, North, and South city corporations.

Rao said close to 70% of major drains, especially those on main roads, had been desilted to prevent waterlogging. The remaining drains would be desilted soon.

Acknowledging a rise in pothole-related complaints, Rao said all five city corporations had been asked to continuously take up pothole filling on priority.

"Over the last few days, pothole filling has been difficult due to the rains. Once the rains reduce, potholes will be filled. We are hoping that in the next one week we can take up some works. All corporation officials have been asked to keep a watch on pothole-related complaints being raised and act immediately," he said.

As a precautionary measure, the five city corporations have trimmed about 1,500 trees across the city. The BTP has flagged another 500 trees as dangerous. "Most of the identified trees have been trimmed. The pending trees will be trimmed in the next 15 days," Rao said.

### Monsoon action plan

- 70-80 waterlogging spots to be fixed within a week.
- 30% of major drains yet to be desilted; work to be completed soon.
- Pothole filling to be intensified once rain eases.
- 1,500 trees already trimmed across the city; 500 more hazardous trees identified; trimming to be completed within 15 days.
- Civic officials directed to monitor and promptly address complaints on waterlogging, potholes, and tree hazards.

## 13th Yellow Line train arrives in city

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) on Monday received the 13th train for the Yellow Line, a senior official said.

The six-coach train arrived at the Hebbagodi depot early Monday morning and is currently being unloaded from trailers. The coaches will be assembled into a trainset before being moved to the Inspection Bay Line (IBL) for static testing.

A Yellow Line metro coach at the Hebbagodi depot on Monday.

Before entering passenger service, the train must complete 750 km of dynamic testing on the main line tracks, a process that can only be carried out during nighttime hours.

The 19.75-km Yellow Line currently operates with 10 trains, providing a peak-hour frequency of seven minutes.

Two additional trains are undergoing testing and are expected to be deployed in the coming weeks, officials said.

The 14th and 15th trains are being manufactured by Titagarh Rail Systems Ltd (TRSL) near Kolkata and are expected to be dispatched by early July, completing the entire order for the Yellow Line. TRSL will then focus on delivering 18 trains for the Green and Purple lines.

By the Yellow Line's first anniversary on August 11, all 15 trains are expected to be operational, reducing peak-hour frequency to five minutes or less. Around two trains will be maintained as reserve stock to handle emergencies and operational contingencies.

BEML is expected to begin supplying six additional trains for the Yellow Line in 2027.

## Auto driver's online betting addiction ends in wife's murder in Mahadevapura

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** A 34-year-old home guard was stabbed to death in Mahadevapura on Sunday evening by her husband, an autorickshaw driver, who had accumulated heavy debts due to his online betting addiction.

After killing Manjula, her husband Pradeep, 38, allegedly tried slashing his wrist in an attempt to end his life, but survived.

Pradeep developed an addiction for online betting apps and lost Rs 8 lakh, leading to frequent disputes with his wife.

Manjula had been living with her parents for the past several weeks after Pradeep harassed her and sold her gold ornaments about a month ago. She disregarded requests to return to her husband.

Before the incident on Sunday, Pradeep recorded a video message in which he blamed his betting addiction for the destruction of his family and causing distress to his wife and children.

He spent the best part of the day searching for Manjula, visiting several places, including a shopping mall and the Mahadevapura police station. He went to her parents' house in Udaya Nagar and pleaded with her to return.

When Manjula refused to go back with him, Pradeep pulled out a knife he hid in his jacket and stabbed her 20 times causing grievous injuries. Manjula collapsed and died on the spot.

Manjula's mother and children witnessed the murder and alerted the police.

Mahadevapura police rushed to the spot, arrested Pradeep and shifted him to hospital to treat the cuts to his right wrist.

He has been remanded to judicial custody after interrogation. Further investigations are on.

## DCs given charge of work on e-khata corrections

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Deputy commissioners across the five city corporations have been entrusted with resolving e-khata correction queries, a responsibility earlier held by zonal joint commissioners.

GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao said the change was made considering the extensive workload on the joint commissioners.

Maheshwar Rao

The corporations had received a large number of complaints regarding khata transfers, correction of owners' names, and other details in e-khata records, and it was important to dispose of these complaints and issue new e-khatas at the earliest.

Rao said software changes are also being implemented. Officials have been asked to introduce necessary improvements to simplify procedures and provide more citizen-friendly services.

# 51% of GBA's white-topping projects completed

BENGALURU, DHNS

GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao on Monday said that 51% of white-topping works taken up across the city have been completed.

Rao, who held a review meeting with GBA officials, directed them to expedite pending works. He said infrastructure works worth Rs 1,700 crore are underway across the city.

"White-topping road works covering 58.60 km have been taken up at a cost of Rs 800 crore. Of this, 28.18 km has been completed, achieving 56.1% progress. In addition, white-topping works covering 66.28 km have been undertaken at a cost of Rs 900 crore. Of this, 26.40 km has been completed, achieving 46.43% progress. Overall, 51% of the works under the Rs 1,700-crore project have been completed," he said.

Rao directed officials to accept road-widening works before white-topping Nagawara Road, Tannery Road, Dinnur Road, and Holiday Village Road. "White-topping works should commence only after the widening process is completed," he said.

Nine buffer roads with a total length of 68 km are being developed within the GBA limits. Rao directed officials to expedite the work and complete it within the stipulated timeframe.

GBA officials say infrastructure works worth Rs 1,700 crore are currently underway across the city. DH FILE PHOTO

## Worker run over by garbage truck

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** A 34-year-old worker was killed and his pillion rider sustained minor injuries after a GBA garbage truck crashed into their two-wheeler near Sirsi Circle on Mysuru Road on Monday morning.

While Satish, a native of Tamil Nadu died, his 18-year-old cousin Praveen escaped with minor injuries.

Both are residents of Goripalya and work in a tent house as daily wagers.

The two were on their way to work at 9.30 am.

Satish, who rode the motorcycle, lost control after a speeding garbage truck rammed his vehicle while attempting to overtake. He fell under the wheels of the truck and died on the spot. Praveen was rushed to a nearby hospital for first aid.

Chamarajpet traffic police rushed to the spot, conducted an inspection and shifted the body for post-mortem examination.

A case of negligent driving has been registered against the truck driver. Further investigation is underway.

## Teacher dies in scooter fall

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** A 54-year-old school teacher died after allegedly falling off a Rapido scooter she was travelling on in JP Nagar on Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Radha S, a resident of Arakere, who worked at a private school. The bike captain, Shwetha, 27, escaped with minor injuries.

Radha had booked a Rapido ride from Mico Layout to her residence in Arakere at 3.30 pm. As they were passing Nandini Junction on 24th Main Road in JP Nagar, Radha lost her balance and fell onto the road.

JP Nagar Traffic Police registered a case against Shwetha for negligent driving. Police said the circumstances leading to the fall are yet to be ascertained.

### ◆ IN THE CITY ◆

**GENERAL**

**48th Silver Jubilee of Kote Maramma Temple:** Procession from Kote Jalakanteshwar Temple; Kote Sri Maramma Temple Samiti, Kalasipalyam; 7.30 am.

**Special Art Exhibition:** 'Broken Foot Journal and Other Stories' on the occasion of Reba Hore's Birth Centenary; Organised by 'Seagull' Kolkata; Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumarakrupa Road; from 11 am onwards.

**World Blood Donor Day:** Inauguration: Dr S Sachchidananda, Dr KS Gangadhar, Dr VR Krishnamurthy; BGS MCH Hospital, Kengeri; from 11.30 am onwards.

**Anniversary:** Subrahmanya Swamy Temple, 'Bhakti Kusuma' book release; Inauguration: Nirmalanandanath Swamiji; Subrahmanya Swamy Trust, KHB Colony, Basaveshwara Nagar; 3 pm.

**CULTURAL**

**Youth Drama Festival:** Play 'Sangya-Balya'; Nayana Ranga Mandira, Kannada Bhavan; 5 pm.

**'Mayadweepa' Drama Performance:** Directed by Puneet Karta; Ranga Shankara; 7.30 pm.

### CITY WEATHER

**FORECAST**
Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers

**TEMPERATURES**

| | |
|---|---|
| Maximum | 28.6°C |
| Minimum | 20.0°C |

| | |
|---|---|
| Rainfall (as of 8:30 am) | NIL |
| Humidity (as of 5:30 pm) | 54% |
| Sunset (Jun 16) | 6:47 pm |
| Sunrise (Jun 17) | 5:54 am |
| Moonrise | 5:45 am |
| Moonset | 7:16 pm |

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Invites to be published should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.**
Please note that hard copieswill not be accepted


**SELCO Foundation – Call for Vendors**

**The Supply, Installation and Commissioning & Comprehensive maintenance for 1 year of Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) Off-grid Systems.**

**SELCO Foundation – Procurement Officer**
690, 15th Cross Rd, Jeewan Griha Colony,
2nd Phase, J P Nagar, Bengaluru, 560078
**procurement@selcofoundation.org**

**SELCO Foundation hereby invites bids for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning & Comprehensive maintenance of Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) off-grid systems for 1 year – for 1900 Anganwadi centres across the state of Karnataka during the year 2026-2027**
The detailed tender document can be downloaded from **https://selcofoundation.org/tender/**
As per the terms and conditions herein, all Bids should be submitted through the online form (E-tender)
**https://forms.gle/WmbbLCgRBLMkoua89**
or submitted at the above-mentioned address by 5 pm on or before 30th June 2026.
**Chief Executive Officer – SELCO Foundation**

**Metro Railway, Kolkata**

Tender Notice for e-tendering is invited by Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway for the following work : **Name of work:** Zonal Contract for maintenance and upkeep of track and track bed of both UP and DN Lines from Km 0/2 to km (-)6/7 between station KDMI (Incl.) and KDSW (Incl.) including Noapara Car Depot Yard including ballastless track up to KNAP all carshed lines, up to line from Noapara Car Depot Yard to Belghoria Station of Eastern Railway of Metro Railway, Kolkata. **Approx. Cost of Work:** Rs. 3,48,05,731.62, **Earnest Money:** Rs. 6,96,100. **Completion Period:** Twenty Four (24) Months, **Date and Time of Closing:** 08.07.2026 at 12:00 Hrs. The Tender Document and other details can be obtained from the website **www.ireps.gov.in** Amendments/Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website.
**Abridged e-Tender Notice No. : Civil-2593-2026 (Open)**
**Follow us at: /metrorailwaykol /metrorailkolkata**

**CORRIGENDUM NO.2**

**Corrigendum No. 2 for Tender Notice No. N_3_HQ_2026-27. Tender No. N_3_HQ_EPC_EI_2026-27. Name of the work:** Provision of Electronic Interlocking at Adina, Azamnagar Road, Khurial, Mangurjan, Tinmilehat, Chatterhat, Sudhani, Telta, Panjipara and Gaisal stations on HDN/HUN route of Katihar Division. **Tender Closing date & Time: 15.00 hrs. on 19-06-2026. Details are as under:**

**NIT Header:**

| Field Name | Existing Date | Modified Date |
|---|---|---|
| Tender Closing Date & Time | **15.00** hrs. of **12-06-2026** | **15.00** hrs. of **19-06-2026** |

For details please visit N.F. Railway website **www.ireps.gov.in**
**General Manager (S&T), Maligaon**
**NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**
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**CBC 09127/11/0005/2627**

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| पद का नाम Name of the post | रिक्तियों की सं. No. of Vacancies | वेतन लेवल Pay Level | आयु सीमा 07.07.2026 को Age limit as on 07.07.2026 |
|---|---|---|---|
| प्रशिक्षित स्नातक अध्यापक/Trained Graduate Teacher(गणित, विज्ञान, तेलुगु, कार्य अनुभवि शिक्षक)/ (Maths, Science, Telugu, Work Experience Teacher) | 04 | लेवल Level 7 (₹ 44,900-₹1,42,400) | 18-35 वर्ष Years |
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**CBC 49109/11/0004/2627**

# VTU announces online classes for engg students on Saturdays

## Saving fuel, reducing traffic jam, pollution the objectives

BENGALURU DHNS:

The Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) has asked affiliated colleges to switch to online classes on Saturdays to save fuel and reduce traffic congestion.

The circular has been issued in line with a national fuel conservation initiative, the VTU said.

The circular will come into effect immediately as classes will be conducted on 2nd, 4th and the occasional 5th Saturdays.

The proposal was discussed at the recent executive council meeting of VTU. After receiving unanimous approval from members, the decision was finalised.

A circular has been issued instructing principals of all colleges to implement it with necessary arrangements.

There are over 220 engineering colleges affiliated to VTU, covering nearly 3 lakh students.

The decision is applicable for autonomous institutions too. The university has declared the 1st and 3rd Saturdays as holidays, while classes will be conducted on 2nd, 4th and 5th Saturdays.

As explained by officials of the university, since this is the first time colleges will be switching to online mode after the Covid-19 pandemic, there may be some initial challenges.

"Classes will follow the same model as offline teaching. As only 2–3 days in a month will be online, no major issues are expected," an official felt.

The circular has been issued in line with a national fuel conservation initiative, according to the Visvesvaraya Technological University.

**S VIDYASHANKAR**
vice chancellor of VTU

"We have lakhs of students studying in our affiliated colleges. The 1st and 3rd Saturdays are already holidays. With online classes on the remaining Saturdays, we can avoid students commuting to college. This will save fuel, reduce air pollution and traffic congestion.

### Teachers in college must

However, attendance for teaching staff is a must. They will take classes on the campuses of the respective colleges.

"They can also be brought under work from home mode in the coming days," the official said.

No decision has yet been taken on whether non-teaching staff should attend college or not on these days.

"Considering the increase in traffic congestion and pollution in urban areas and given that a majority of students depend on private vehicles to reach college, we have taken the decision to reduce the burden, at least a bit," officials said.

# Surya questions CM's reluctance to hand over Bengaluru charge

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Bangalore South BJP MP Tejasvi Surya on Monday questioned Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's reluctance to hand over full charge of Bengaluru development-related departments to Byatarayanapura MLA Krishna Byre Gowda, asking why a minister was appointed if key powers continued to remain with the chief minister.

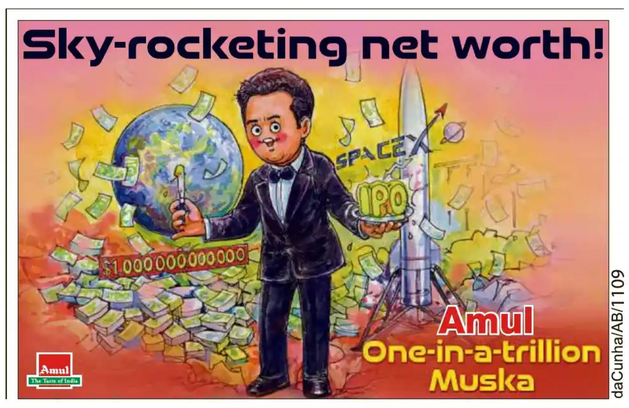
Tejasvi Surya

In a post on X, Surya said the developments pointed to a larger issue of control over Bengaluru's powerful institutions. "If Bengaluru development is truly a priority, why is the chief minister unwilling to hand over full charge to his own Minister? And if full authority is not being given, why appoint a Minister at all?" he asked.

The MP's remarks come at a time when Krishna Byre Gowda is yet to assume charge of the Bengaluru portfolio almost 12 days after taking oath. "Is this really about governance or about controlling the institutions that command the city's land, contracts, resources and political economy?" Surya asked.

He alleged that while the Congress government was engaged in a tussle over power and control, Bengaluru continued to face problems such as traffic congestion, flooding, crumbling roads and failing infrastructure.

Surya urged the Chief Minister to end the turf war and focus on governance, saying the focus must be on Bengaluru's development.

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# Colleges of B'luru city varsity collect 'illegal' penalty for attendance shortage

## Allow students to write exams; university warns of disaffiliation

BENGALURU, DHNS

At least six private colleges affiliated to Dr Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University (MSBCU) are facing complaints of collecting "illegal" penalty to allow students facing attendance shortage to write the ongoing odd-semester exams.

While there is no provision to allow students low on attendance to write exams, the colleges are allegedly collecting Rs 5,000 to Rs 15,000 per student.

Following complaints, the university authorities summoned principals of the colleges on Monday.

As per details available with *DH*, one college collected a total of Rs 5 lakh from students as penalty.

In another college, around 80 students who were having less than 75% attendance were allowed to appear for exams.

Sharing details, Lakshya Raj, president of National Student Union of India (NSUI) unit at MSBCU, said, "We have collected all necessary documents and evidences and submitted the same to the vice chancellor (VC) of the university".

'If the university fails to act against the colleges, we will be forced to launch an agitation," he warned.

Students who have attended classes throughout the semester have questioned this, saying, "If colleges are allowed to issue admission tickets even to those having shortage of attendance, why should we attend classes regularly?".

"This has become an additional income source for many colleges every exam season. We witnessed this last year also, but we were not in a position to question this," said a student of a private college.

When contacted, VC of the university Ramesh B said, "I have received complaints against some of the colleges, summoned the principals and insisted that they refund the penalty collected," he said.

The VC said he had warned the principals that the colleges would be disaffiliated if the rules were not followed.

"Most of the time, such instances don't come to our notice as students themselves are beneficiaries. But this time, as we have received complaints, we will discuss this in the syndicate and issue a general circular, warning all affiliated colleges to stop such illegal practice," he said.

# KBG set to take charge as B'luru development minister today

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Ending days of uncertainty over the portfolio, Krishna Byre Gowda (KBG) is set to formally assume charge as the Greater Bengaluru development minister on Tuesday, sources in the government said.

The Byatarayanapura MLA has convened a meeting of senior IAS officers of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and five corporations in the morning, following discussions with Chief Minister D K Shivakumar over the contours of the new portfolio and the allocation of responsibilities.

He is also expected to meet senior officials of Namma Metro and the BWSSB, both of which will report to him.

Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) and the Bangalore Metropolitan Region Development Authority (BMRDA) will continue to remain under the chief minister's control, it's learnt.

Gowda, who took oath nearly two weeks ago, had deferred taking charge of the crucial portfolio because it carried limited responsibilities and key agencies such as BDA and BMRDA were out of its ambit.

The development comes at a crucial time for Bengaluru. Monsoon rains have already arrived and civic agencies are gearing up to tackle flooding, potholes and other seasonal challenges.

GBA elections are also due in the coming months.

While the delay in Gowda taking charge sparked concerns over a possible leadership vacuum, senior bureaucrats maintained that the city's administrative machinery had continued to function normally. "Commissioners are independent authorities. Unlike secretaries in government departments, they do not merely exercise delegated powers of ministers," an IAS officer said.

Sources said the minister was never in a hurry to assume charge and had been awaiting clarity from the party leadership and the government on the structure of the new portfolio.

# Ravi demands CBI probe into Dharmasthala issue

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** BJP MLC C T Ravi on Monday urged Chief Minister DK Shivakumar to hand over the Dharmasthala case to the CBI for a "comprehensive" investigation.

In a letter to Shivakumar, Ravi claimed that for a few years, there had been constant accusations, false propaganda and suspicion being "created" against Dharmasthala's Dharmadhikari D Veerendra Heggade.

"Now, a petition submitted before the High Court has added a serious dimension to this. According to media reports, this petition names actor Prakash Raj, Mahesh Shetty Thimarody, Girish Mattannavar, Vittal Gowda, Jayanth and YouTubers such as Sameer M D, Ajay, Dinesh and such names," Ravi claimed in the letter.

The MLC claimed that it had come out before the court that there was an "organised" and "systemic" conspiracy against Dharmasthala and Heggade.

"Since this case goes beyond the jurisdiction of Karnataka, it won't be sufficient if the Karnataka State Police investigates this. Only if a central-level investigative agency probes this will there be a comprehensive investigation, and details on who was behind this and what their motive was can come out. Therefore, I urge you to hand over the case to the CBI."

# New study focuses on impact of climate change on elders

**ASRA MAVAD**
BENGALURU, DHNS

A new study on pressures of climate change on elderly persons in the country has pointed to its impact on poor health and inadequate care systems. Among the most common climate threats, heatwaves have emerged on top of the list.

The report, titled 'Climate Resilient Ageing – Ensuring Care, Dignity & Agency', has been put together by HelpAge India after surveying 2,224 citizens over 60 years of age across 20 districts in 10 states, including Karnataka.

It has been found that 78% of the surveyed senior citizens had experienced at least one climate-related hazard in last 3 years.

Heatwaves have emerged as the most common threat, affecting 45% of respondents, followed by floods (27%) and droughts (20%).

Extreme heat waves and erratic climate variations have been shown to trigger direct physical ailments, like sunstroke, extreme fatigue, dehydration and vomiting. "The heat is very intense, we are unable to bear it. If the sun hits, we get tired, we can't work," said a respondent in her 70s, from Kolar district.

Nearly half of those surveyed reported living with at least one long-term impairment, most commonly mobility and vision-related difficulties.

Housing conditions also emerged as a major concern. About 60% did not consider their homes fully safe. Poor ventilation and excessive indoor heat were reported by 40%.

"Older persons are among those most at risk. Yet, they remain largely invisible in climate response efforts," said Rohit Prasad, CEO, HelpAge India.

Family continues to be the primary source of support, with 94% of care being provided by relatives. But the study points to growing strains on traditional caregiving systems.

A respondent from Yadgir district voiced fears about the lack of support during emergencies.

Only one-third of respondents said help from the community was always available when needed. Male senior citizens exhibited "intense anxiety regarding rising medical costs".

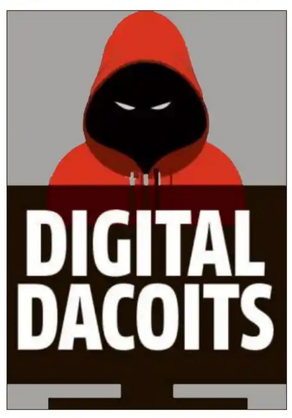
# How scammers used former SBI chief's identity to dupe retiree of Rs 5.36 lakh

BENGALURU, DHNS

Scammers posed as retired SBI chairman Arundhati Bhattacharya, created a fake Facebook account in her name, and cheated a 72-year-old retired man from Bhuvaneshwari Nagar of Rs 5.36 lakh.

The victim was first contacted on Facebook about lucrative business investment opportunities. Once he shared his contact details, he received a call from the person who posed as Arundhati.

The scammer then added the victim to a WhatsApp group impersonating Reliance Industries. The victim was told that if he "invested" with them and did what was said, he would get triple returns in nine months, totalling Rs 60 lakh. The scammers allegedly named Mukesh Ambani to further convince him.




Between April 1 and May 31, the victim transferred Rs 5.36 lakh to various bank accounts and UPI IDs shared by the scammers.

He realised he was being cheated after he received no returns and then approached the police.

A case was registered under relevant sections of the IT Act and Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Further probe is underway.

### Cases from recent months

June 11: A 60-year-old homemaker was cheated of Rs 98.4 lakh in a digital arrest scam.

May 26: An 81-year-old man lost Rs 6.06 lakh in a fake bank manager scam

May 24: Six arrested for cheating a 74-year-old man of Rs 24 crore in a digital arrest scam.

### Senior citizens easy targets

City police have urged residents, especially senior citizens, to be wary of such frauds.

"We have seen how the senior citizens are easily and repeatedly falling prey to such scams. We would like to reiterate that no reputed broker or investment firm offers tips or investment opportunities through the WhatsApp groups. Also, it is important to note for senior citizens not to be scared and to call the police either on 112 or on the elder helpline, which is 1090," a senior police officer said.

# Major train disruptions at KSR Bengaluru due to signalling upgrade, platform extension

BENGALURU, DHNS

Major train disruptions await KSR Bengaluru in the coming weeks as two railway lines will be blocked for yard remodelling and safety upgrade works at the city's busiest station.

Fifty-eight trains will be cancelled, 116 partially cancelled, four partially extended, 26 diverted, two rescheduled and five regulated by 15-60 minutes en route (their halt time at certain stations will be increased).

Some train cancellations will start as early as on Tuesday (June 16) and stretch for nearly two months. Sixteen trains originating or terminating in Mysuru/Ashokapuram will be cancelled. Nine MEMU trains connecting KSR Bengaluru to stations within the city and Tumakuru will also be cancelled.

The partially cancelled trains will terminate or originate in other stations in the city. Ten Vande Bharat trains will be among those affected, although none is being cancelled.

According to the South Western Railway (SWR), the yard remodelling works will result in five major operational benefits.

The first is the simultaneous train reception on Rd-01 (track 1) and train dispatch from Rd-02 (track 2) towards Bengaluru Cantonment. The second is the expansion of platform number 7 from 460 metres to 600 metres to handle full-length trains (24 coaches). Thirdly, a non-platform running line can receive and dispatch freight trains that are otherwise handled on platform lines. Fourthly, improved signalling for simultaneous reception and dispatch of trains towards Mysuru and Bengaluru Cantonment will replace electrically detected points with motor-operated points and by providing signal overlaps. Lastly, the existing Solid State Interlocking (SSI) signalling system is being converted to Electronic Interlocking (EI) for safe train operations.

A view of the Krantivira Sangolli Rayanna (KSR) railway station in Bengaluru. DH FILE PHOTO

This is the first of two major yard remodelling projects to expand capacity at KSR Bengaluru. It is being executed by the Gati Shakti Unit. The second project involves constructing two more platforms on the Yeshwantpur grid.

Manjunath Kanamadi, Chief Public Relations Officer, SWR, said the works were being undertaken in phases. "This is the first phase and the aim is to ease operational flexibility through signalling arrangements for reception and dispatch of trains," he stated. Additional platforms will be constructed in the second phase, he added.

**From August 1 to 3:** The Belagavi-KSR Bengaluru Vande Bharat (26751) will terminate at Yeshwantpur, the KSR Bengaluru-Belagavi Vande Bharat (26752) will originate from Yeshwantpur, the Kalaburagi-SMVT Bengaluru Vande Bharat (22232) will terminate at Yelahanka, the SMVT Bengaluru-Kalaburagi Vande Bharat (22231) will originate from Yelahanka, and the KSR Bengaluru-Dharwad Vande Bharat (20661) will originate from Yeshwantpur.

**From July 31 to August 3:** The Dharwad-KSR Bengaluru Vande Bharat (20662) will terminate at Yeshwantpur, while the Ernakulam-KSR Bengaluru Vande Bharat (26652) will terminate at KR Puram.

**From August 1 to 4:** The KSR Bengaluru-Ernakulam Vande Bharat (26651) will originate from Bengaluru Cantonment.

**From August 1 to 3:** The KSR Bengaluru-Hazrat Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express (22691) will originate from Yeshwantpur, while its pairing train (22692) will be regulated for 60 minutes en route on August 2.

**From July 29 to August 1:** The New Delhi-KSR Bengaluru Karnataka Express (12628) will terminate at Baiyappanahalli, while its pairing train (12627) will originate from Baiyappanahalli from August 1 to 3.

# KPTCL tests smart technology to raise grid capacity by 25%

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) has launched a pilot project to implement Dynamic Line Rating (DLR) technology on the 220-kV Puttenahalli–Sahakarnagar transmission corridor, aiming to increase transmission capacity by up to 25% without investing in new infrastructure.

With this, KPTCL becomes one of the first state transmission utilities in south India to adopt the advanced technology. The project seeks to unlock additional capacity from existing transmission network without constructing new transmission towers or acquiring additional land.

The DLR system replaces static line rating (SLR) method with a real-time monitoring framework powered by advanced IoT-enabled sensors.

"These sensors continuously monitor critical parameters like ambient temperature, wind speed, solar radiation and conductor sag, enabling grid operators to dynamically assess and optimise transmission-line capacity," KPTCL said in a statement.

"The DLR project will enable us to maximise utilisation of existing infrastructure and significantly enhance grid capacity. This will help meet state's growing power demand without requiring major capital investments," Energy Minister K J George said.

Based on outcome, KPTCL plans to assess the feasibility of deploying DLR across other heavily loaded transmission corridors and renewable energy evacuation networks.

"DLR will enable KPTCL to make real-time, data-driven operational decisions, improving transmission network efficiency and reliability," said Ramprasat Manohar V, MD, KPTCL.

Under the SLR system, transmission-line capacity is determined using conservative assumptions based on worst-case weather conditions like high temperatures and low wind speeds. While this approach prioritises operational safety, it often leads to underutilisation of transmission assets.

DLR addresses this by continuously monitoring actual operating conditions. Smart sensors installed on transmission conductors measure parameters like wind speed, ambient temperature, solar radiation and conductor sag in real time.

In cooler and windier conditions, transmission lines dissipate heat more effectively and can safely carry higher electrical loads. By adjusting capacity limits based on real-time data, DLR enables utilities to optimise use of existing infrastructure, while maintaining safety and reliability standards.

# B'luru-based SNC wins Rs 3,348-cr deal for 1st leg of BBC project

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The BDA has issued a letter of acceptance to city-based Shankara Narayana Constructions for building the first 21 km of the Bengaluru Business Corridor. Two companies had participated in the tender, estimated to cost Rs 3,348 crore, including 10 years of maintenance.

Officials said construction work is expected to commence soon. Package-1 connects Madavara near Bangalore International Exhibition Centre to Ballari Road. The 74-km project has been split into 3 packages.

The contract comes after years of delays due to hurdles related to land acquisition and financing. With the letter of acceptance issued, the contractor is expected to begin mobilising resources and preliminary works.

## 3 B'luru cops, held in Rajasthan for taking bribe, suspended

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Home Minister Priyank Kharge on Monday announced the suspension of three Bengaluru police officers arrested in Rajasthan for allegedly taking a bribe in a dowry harassment case.

"What has happened is not right, so they have been suspended. It is also being verified if any senior police officers were involved in this. It will take some time to fix this system, which has caught rust," Kharge told reporters.

On June 13, Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officials from Rajasthan arrested sub-inspector Anita K and head constables Yatish Kumar and Ulvappa, all from Bengaluru's HAL police station, for accepting a bribe from a suspect in the case.

According to the Rajasthan ACB, it laid a trap for the three police officers when they were staying in a Jaipur hotel to investigate the case. The police officers allegedly demanded Rs 2 lakh from the suspect to provide relief and dilute the case, and they were caught red-handed taking the first instalment of Rs 40,000.

"This must be corrected not only from the top but also from the lower levels. The CM has already instructed that if anyone harasses citizens, demands bribes or engages in corruption, they should complain directly to us," Kharge said.

The minister also announced that the government is working on a mechanism through which citizens can directly lodge complaints if police officers or government officials engage in such activities, harass people or indulge in corruption while performing their duties. "Such a system will be implemented in our department soon," he added.

# Guarantees won't stop, Oppn spreading misinfo: Siddu

### Former chief minister says BJP is 'fundamentally anti-poor'

BENGALURU, DHNS:

Siddaramaiah

Former chief minister Siddaramaiah on Monday reassured that the five guarantee schemes would not be discontinued under any circumstances.

Amid Opposition's criticism of the Congress government over the reported misuse of the Gruha Lakshmi benefits and the ongoing exercise to weed out "ineligible" beneficiaries, Siddaramaiah said, "The beneficiaries need not be anxious nor pay heed to the misinformation campaign by the Opposition parties. The guarantees will continue not only for the next two years but also after the next Assembly elections when the Congress returns to power. We have made efforts to overcome the shortcomings in the implementation of these schemes since they were launched."

Raising concerns over ineligible persons availing of the benefits, the veteran leader warned that obtaining the benefits out of greed and by deception was not only a violation of the law but also a betrayal of the people.

"These schemes must reach genuinely eligible beneficiaries. It is the duty of an elected government to prevent misuse. The Opposition parties should refrain from spreading misinformation for political gain and instead cooperate with the government to ensure the schemes reach only eligible beneficiaries," said Siddaramaiah.

**'BJP anti-poor'**

Calling the BJP "fundamentally anti-poor" Siddaramaiah argued the BJP was politically frustrated.

"BJP opposed the guarantees, doubted their implementation, claimed the government would go bankrupt and now, it is spreading rumours that the schemes would be discontinued. But, it announced similar schemes in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal to capture power," he charged.

Stating the BJP had no moral authority to oppose the schemes, Siddaramaiah said, "As CM, I successfully implemented all five schemes while safeguarding state's economy. Today, Karnataka ranks first in the country in per capita income and second in GST collections. If treasury were empty and the government bankrupt, such achievements wouldn't have been possible," said Siddaramaiah, also claiming that the BJP had failed to implement its guarantees in some states.

## Write to Prez, guv on trash 'scam': Ashoka to citizens

BENGALURU, DHNS

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R Ashoka on Monday urged the residents of Bengaluru to write to the Governor and the President about the alleged scam concerning garbage disposal in the city.

Addressing reporters during a press meet, Ashoka said: "This will be a burden on the people of Bengaluru. Thus, the people should conduct a letter campaign. All organisations, apartments, senior citizens and students should write to the President and the Prime Minister. They should protect the future of the city." The Opposition leader noted that he had written to the high-level committee and urged them to prepare a report honestly.

"Chief Minister D K Shivakumar has himself done everything and got caught. I am working as the people's agent. I am ready to urge them to hand it over to the CBI tomorrow itself. However, the government needs to second it. Shivakumar has given tenders for 60 years. This is not a question of caste. Whether Shivakumar continues as CM or not, I don't gain or lose anything..."

## 'Hulimaavu Mattu Naanu' author Indira Lankesh no more

**PRANATI A S**
BENGALURU, DHNS

Indira Lankesh

"Indira became who she is despite Lankesh, not because of him," said senior journalist and author N Sandhyarani about author-entrepreneur Indira Lankesh, who died on Monday. Indira Lankesh was 83 and reportedly passed away in her sleep.

Married to renowned writer, journalist and thinker P Lankesh (1935-2000), Indira is seen as the pillar behind his legacy.

Nearly 50 years ago, she moved to Bengaluru from a small town in Shivamogga after marrying him.

She was the mother of journalist-activist Gauri Lankesh, who was assassinated in 2017, and filmmakers Kavitha Lankesh and Indrajit Lankesh.

When Lankesh quit his job as a lecturer to pursue filmmaking and other arts, Indira started a sari business to support the family, which eventually grew into Mayur Silks and Textiles in Gandhi Bazaar.

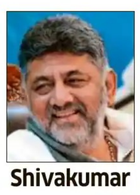
Her memoir, 'Hulimaavu Mattu Nanu' (Sour Mango and I), is considered revolutionary among women's memoirs in Kannada.

Lankesh called his autobiography 'Hulimavina Mara' (The Sour Mango Tree).

"Most men believe, 'even if a tamarind tree grows old, its sourness never grows old'.That is Lankesh's perspective about himself. But Indira's memoir, calls Lankesh just 'sour mango'. She never gave him any kind of validation," Sandhyarani added.

## CM directs for SMSes on aid to milk subsidy beneficiaries

BENGALURU, DHNS:


Shivakumar

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Monday directed animal husbandry department officials to inform beneficiaries of milk incentive and subsidy schemes through SMS notifications, immediately upon release of assistance.

Shivakumar was chairing the first meeting with the department after taking over as chief minister.

Currently, the animal husbandry portfolio has not been allotted to any minister.

He sought a detailed assessment of how beneficiaries had fared under the national livestock mission. The chief minister directed officials to prepare a comprehensive fodder management plan in view of possible drought and fodder shortages.

**Agriculture department**

In a meeting with agriculture department, the chief minister directed officials to pursue additional allocation of complex fertilisers from the government of India to promote balanced nutrient application and improve agriculture productivity.

Shivakumar told officials to ensure that farmers were provided with the best available scientific advice and practical solutions under all circumstances. Reviewing food processing parks, he sought a detailed report on land allotted to private entities, investment made and outcome achieved.

He directed officials to review cases of under-utilisation and initiate appropriate action to ensure optimal use of public assets.

**Watershed devpt dept**

In a meeting with the watershed development department, the chief minister directed officials to leverage schemes by the union government and funding provisions to undertake projects.

He emphasised the need for proactive coordination with the union government and directed officials to maximise resource mobilisation through central assistance for priority projects.

## Trump winds down the war he started with goals unmet

**Trump, From Page 1**

The latest framework, which has not yet been publicly released and is expected to be signed in Geneva on Friday, is a capstone to three months in which Trump has delivered a dizzying array of mixed messages.

He said that Iran's nuclear programme had been "obliterated" in US strikes last year, yet said that the war was necessary to stop the Iranians from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

He was clear that the war's conclusion would rest on one stipulation: "It has always been the policy of the United States, in particular, my administration, that this terrorist regime can never have a nuclear weapon," he said.

But the deal leaves that issue unresolved for at least another 60 days, when both sides are expected to negotiate on nuclear issues.

Trump did not cast the deal as a solution to the nuclear threat. Instead he focused on West Asia and his legacy.

"This Great Deal will bring Peace and Security to the whole Region," he wrote in a social media post. "Many presidents have tried to make Peace with Iran, and all have failed before me."

Trump has also sent conflicting messages over how far he would go to secure a nuclear agreement with Iran. He has gone from threatening to wipe out the country's civilisation to saying he was in no hurry to remove its remaining stockpiles of enriched uranium.

At the start of the war, Trump initially claimed the United States would accomplish its goals in "four to five weeks". He repeatedly compared the war in Iran to his quick military operation in Venezuela.

This war instead dragged on for months. Rather than bowing to the US, Iran's new leadership has been emboldened, consistently withstanding military and diplomatic pressure.

In negotiations with Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, and special envoy, Steve Witkoff, the Iranians have held firm on not giving up the right to enrich uranium.

"As for the nuclear issues, there really is no agreement," Daniel B Shapiro, a former U.S. ambassador to Israel, said in a statement on social platform X. "Iran knows how to drag out those negotiations, and try to pocket concessions along the way."

He added that the United States now appeared to be paying to reopen the Strait of Hormuz by potentially lifting sanctions imposed against Iran.

## US and Iran reach deal to end war, reopen Hormuz

**US and Iran, from Page 1**

The deal follows weeks of fraught negotiations and periodic threats of fresh hostilities, but its details remain unclear.

Iran's Mehr news agency reported that the US would release $12 billion in frozen assets to Iran before the start of negotiations.

It quoted a 14-point "memorandum of understanding" between the two nations, which it said stipulated "the release of $24 billion in frozen Iranian assets during the 60-day negotiation period" that begins after the MoU is signed.

The Trump administration didn't immediately comment on the details, which may prove contentious as the US presses its effort to end Tehran's nuclear ambitions and deal with its stockpile of highly enriched uranium.

## RTI activism a business, says Supreme Court; rejects bail to 2

**RTI activism, from Page 1**

"Central government has issued funds. Central government will take care of the construction. You are nobody," the bench remarked.

The case related to an FIR registered at Batala City police station in Punjab on February 20 this year. The prosecution alleged that the duo obstructed an ongoing road construction project, criminally intimidated the complainant and labourers, and used caste-based derogatory remarks against workers belonging to Scheduled Castes.

One of the accused allegedly attacked the complainant with a datar (knife), while the other kicked him repeatedly, resulting in multiple injuries, including one grievous hurt.

Police also claimed that government records were snatched during the incident.

The accused, however, maintained that they were falsely implicated after they raised complaints about substandard material being used in the project.

They argued that the FIR was a counterblast to shield contractors and officials involved in the alleged irregularities.

Their anticipatory bail plea was earlier rejected by the Punjab and Haryana High Court in May.

The high court had noted that the FIR disclosed specific allegations of obstructing government work, assault, and use of caste-based slurs, supported by medical evidence showing seven injuries on the complainant.

It had held that claims of corruption could not justify anticipatory bail, especially when custodial interrogation was necessary.

The accused then approached the Supreme Court challenging the high court order.

## Minister Jarkiholi flags...

**Jarkiholi, from Page 1**

"A township should not end up burdening the government," he added. The Cabinet meeting scheduled on June 20 is likely to discuss the Bidadi township project, Satish said. "No programme or project should damage the party. We are mindful of this. A discussion is warranted keeping the party's interests in mind".

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka said successive governments did not implement the project after the H D Kumaraswamy administration first mooted the township in 2006. "The subsequent B S Yediyurappa government did not implement the project. No CM who came after that implemented it either. All CMs have dropped this project," Ashoka said.

Ashoka said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is opposing the Great Nicobar project, which involves building maritime capacity. "In Bidadi, thousands of farmers have hit the streets. If natural wealth is destroyed in Bidadi, Rahul Gandhi won't speak because (Congress') only goal is to oppose PM Modi," he said. "The Great Nicobar project is being implemented from a national security standpoint. But the project in Bidadi has no such purpose," he added.

He also pointed out that 20 lakh plots and flats developed by the government are lying vacant in the city. "Going by this, there is no need for Bidadi township," he said. "Even 15 years after the construction of Kempegowda Layout, drinking water and electricity have not been provided," he said.

## Explain legal status, income...

**RSS, from Page 1**

In the letter, Priyank also stated that the RSS conducted 2,194 samajotsavas, drawing 19.61 lakh people and 562 route marches with 2.21 lakh "uniformed" participants. "...these figures show a vast, disciplined and deeply embedded network operating across Karnataka," the minister said. "Such an extensive organisational presence...cannot be treated as a private or informal arrangement," he stated.

There are, Priyank said, "legitimate questions" on "legal status, accountability, financial transparency, public order, permissions, sources of funding and compliance with the Constitution and Indian laws."

Priyank stated that no organisation — "however old, large or influential" — can escape scrutiny in a constitutional democracy. "In Bharat, even a safai karmachari must be registered to avail government benefits. Every religious institution and trust is audited," he stated, adding that even charitable bodies and nonprofits are required to disclose finances.

"An organisation that regularly evokes nationalism, discipline and duty must also demonstrate these values through transparency, compliance and respect for the Constitution," Priyank stated, urging the RSS to start "constitutional introspection" during its centenary celebration. "The best tribute [RSS] can pay to India in its 100th year is to register itself, disclose its activities and finances, pay all applicable taxes and function as a transparent and accountable organisation within the framework of Indian law," Priyank stated.

### What the govt asked for

- Legal status and organisational structure of RSS
- Details of its office-bearers, authorised representatives
- Sources of donations, contributions and income
- Details of expenditure, assets
- Tax payment details
- Legal basis on which activities are carried out
- Constitutional and statutory framework under which it claims the right to operate
- Details of permissions sought for public events and other activities

## Historians call for turning Kumara Krupa into museum

**Kumara Krupa, From Page 1**

According to *DH* reports, on May 30 and 31, just days before taking oath as chief minister, Shivakumar inspected the guesthouse and ordered "immediate renovation works".

Prasad said any damage to the property would call for protests. "Over a decade ago, Bengalureans had come together to protest against the demolition of Balabrooie guest house. If need be, we will do the same for Kumara Krupa. Such a building should never be renovated, only restored if needed," he said.

Meera Iyer, convenor of INTACH's Bengaluru chapter, told *DH*, "If the building is being renovated, ideally a body like INTACH or any other firm which works in conservation space should be consulted. There are a handful of buildings like Kumara Krupa, which have a feature that's unique to Bengaluru — stone structure. These have an emphasis on ornamentation, which consciously projects a very Indian look to the buildings. Such architecture needs to be preserved and celebrated". The erstwhile Dewan's family, currently in Bengaluru, has also raised objections to current renovations.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public are hereby informed that my client Mr.Dilip Shridhar Hegde, S/o . Late Mr. Shridhar Vishwanath Hegde (Mr. S V Hegde) presently residing at No.623, 1st Stage, 2nd Main, Indiranagar, (Binnamangala Layout) Bengaluru- 560038, has lost the original Sale deed dated 20-09-1968,registered as document No.1760/1968-69 of Book 1,Volume 1524, pages 99 to 102, In the office of the Sub Registrar, Civil area Bengaluru, executed by the Bangalore City Improvement Trust Board in favour of Mr.Shridhar Vishwanath Hegde, pertaining to the Schedule Property and accordingly on behalf of Mr.Dilip Shridhar Hegde a lost article report was filed by the undersigned on 10-05-2026 vide No. 2195691/2026, with the Police Unit Bengaluru City.
The public are informed that the finder/s of the above documents are requested to hand over the same to the undersigned and they will be suitably rewarded. General Public are also warned not to enter any transactions based on the above missing documents and any such transactions will not be binding on my client and any person/s, having any claim over the schedule property, may lodge their objections or claims, in writing with all supporting documentary evidence by registered post with regard to such claim with the undersigned, within 7days hereof. Any claims lodged thereafter will not be entertained by my client.
SCHEDULE
All that piece and parcel of residential site No 623, bearing khatha No.82-1-623, situated at 1st Stage, 2nd Main, Indiranagar, (Binnamangala Layout)Bengaluru-560038, measuring East to West 60 Feet and 6 inches and North to South 40 feet, actual area measuring 2424 sq ft and the property is bounded on the:
East by: Site No.622
West by: Site No.624
North by: Site No.632
South by: Road
Date:16/06/2026
Vasantha Krishna K & Vanitha VK
Advocates
No. 202, Jayasplendor, No.45, 1st Main, 3rd Cross, SV Layout, Sanjaynagar,Bengaluru 560094

PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, MUJUBUR RAHAMAN, holder of Indian Passport No. S9722754, Issued at, DUBAI on 26/09/2018, permanent residing at LINGAMANAHALLI PALYA, CHAKENAHALLI, TUMKUR, KARNATAKA,PIN 572216, INDIA and presently residing at SHARJAH, UAE.
I have proof with AADHAR CARD and INDIAN PAN CARD, so I change my name from MUJUBUR RAHAMAN to MUJUBURRAHAMAN with immediate effect. In this I want to submit to Indian consulate Dubai for new passport with change of name.

I, MOHAMMED ZIAULLA, Residing at #206, Hegganahalli, Vishwaneedam Post, Bengaluru-91 have changed my name as MOHAMED ZIA ULLA, vide affidavit dated 15/06/2026 before Notary V.Anjanappa, Bengaluru

I, ABISHREE D/o Srinivas B R aged about 24 years residing of #1091, New Extension, Kolar 563101, have changed my name from Abishree to Abhishri B S & my date of birth in some documents is mentioned as 02.12.2002 correct date of birth is 02.08.2002 Hence this affidavit is to produce before the concerned authorities to correct my name as Abhishri B S and date of birth as 02.08.2002 vide affidavit dated 15.06.2026 before Notary Bisappa Gowda Kolar.

CONNECT




CHANGE OF NAME
I, D. MANI, R/a, No.845, 1st Cross, Chennakeshava Nagar, Hosa Road, Electronic City, Bengaluru-560 100 have changed my name from D. MANIGANDAN to D. MANI vide affidavit dated 12-06-2026 Sworn before Notary V. Rangaraju, Bengaluru.

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CHANGE OF NAME
I, THIMMARAYA GOWDA G, S/o GANGANNA, residing at No. 18, 5th Cross, Madduramma Layout, Gajanana Nagar, Bangalore - 560091, have changed my name to JAYANTH GOWDA G vide Affidavit dated 12/06/2026 sworn before Notary Devaraja E., Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, ARUNA R/a, No. 845, 1st Cross, Chennakeshava Nagar, Hosa Road, Electronic City, Bengaluru-560 100 have changed my name from K.S. ARUNA SHIVANI to ARUNA vide affidavit dated 12-06-2026 Sworn before Notary V. Rangaraju, Bengaluru.

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9886213331

## Govt appoints Labhu Ram as IGP computer wing

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The Karnataka government on Monday appointed Labhu Ram as the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Police Computer Wing.

Labhu Ram

Ram relieved Pronab Mohanty, who was recently appointed as the DGP of the Criminal Investigation Department.

"Labhu Ram, IPS (KN:2004), waiting for posting is posted with immediate effect and until further orders as Inspector General of Police, Police Computer Wing, Bengaluru vice relieving Pronab Mohanty, IPS from concurrent charge," the order said.

"Further, Labhu Ram is placed in concurrent charge as Special Officer to Home Minister, Government of Karnataka, with immediate effect and until further orders," the order added.

Ram previously served as IGP intelligence before being transferred by the D K Shivakumar-led government.

# State records 21% deficit in rainfall since June 1

## Water levels in 14 reservoirs at 23% of capacity

**PAVAN KUMAR H**
HUBBALLI, DHNS

Karnataka has recorded a 21% deficit in rainfall since June 1, with the Coastal Karnataka and Malnad regions worst affected as they reported 41% and 36% deficit, respectively.

This year, India Meteorological Department announced the onset of monsoon over parts of Karnataka on June 4.

Between June 1 and 15, the state received 67 mm rainfall against the normal 85.5 mm, leaving a shortfall of 18 mm.

The scanty rainfall and high temperatures are resulting in fast depletion of water at 14 major reservoirs in the state. Against their total 896-tmc-ft storage capacity, these reservoirs had only 206 tmc ft water on June 15.

During the last monsoon, Karnataka had witnessed rainfall deficit in the first 10 days. However, the rains picked up later and the state registered a normal monsoon year, with 882 mm of rainfall against the normal of 852 mm.

This year, however, scientists at the IMD feel the situation may not be the same as the region is currently witnessing "very, very weak monsoon winds".

Due to the El Nino effect, the IMD has already announced that India could witness a deficit rainfall year (below 90% of the normal).

IMD's Bengaluru head N Puviarasan said Karnataka is currently receiving warm northerly and north easterly winds.

Between June 1 and 15, the state received 67 mm rainfall against the normal 85.5 mm, leaving a shortfall of 18 mm.
DH FILE PHOTO

"There is hardly any depression activity over the Arabian Sea that could have resulted in rain in Karnataka. It would be too early to predict if the state could face a drought-like situation. but there are multiple indications to suggest that the state would receive deficit rainfall this year."

Nearly 82% of Karnataka is experiencing temperatures between 30°C and 36°C.

According to the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre, parts of Kalaburagi, Koppal, Ballari, Belagavi, Bidar, Vijayapura, Yadgir and Raichur districts recorded maximum temperatures ranging between 38°C and 40.5°C on June 15.

Puviarasan said most of the North Karnataka districts have not received rains for the last three-four days and as there are clear skies, the temperatures in the region remain similar to that during the summer.

With regards to water level in reservoirs, the four in the Cauvery basin had only 34 tmc ft against the cumulative capacity of 115 tmc ft. On June 15 last year, these reservoirs had a storage of 77 tmc ft.

In the Krishna basin, the six reservoirs have a storage of 94 tmc ft against their total capacity of 423 tmc ft.

Revenue Department (Disaster Management) Commissioner Manoj Kumar Meena said reservoir levels stood at 23% of their total capacity.

"The inflow to these dams is also low compared to last year. The state will prioritise stored water for drinking purposes," he said. Regarding the fear of a drought-like situation, he said the state will take a call in first week of July after looking at storage levels in dams.

"The state has experience of mitigating drought-like situations, as there have been cycles of drought and normal years in last 10 years," he said.

# Why are IMD's rain alerts evaporating into thin air?

## Lack of data collection points in Arabian Sea partly to blame, says weatherman

**PAVAN KUMAR H**
HUBBALLI, DHNS

Over the past fortnight, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has been issuing red, orange and yellow alerts for heavy rainfall across Karnataka. However, many areas have received far less rain than forecast, while some have seen none at all.

According to scientists, weather alerts are issued based on model forecasts, with both the IMD and European models currently indicating heavy rainfall.

IMD Bengaluru head N Puviarasan says the models indicate strong circular winds at altitudes of around 3 km and 4 km, which are usually associated with heavy rain. However, the winds from the Arabian Sea are carrying insufficient moisture, resulting in weaker rainfall than expected.

"We can't take risk against any untoward incidents in case of heavy rains, so we are issuing the warnings," said Puviarasan.

Weather models are mathematical calculations that are designed to understand the intensity of rain. Since the onset of monsoon in Karnataka on June 5, the maximum rainfall received in a day in Karnataka is around 12 cm at Yaragatti, Belagavi district.

"This can be categorised as heavy rainfall and not very heavy as predicted," he said.

One of the reasons as to why they are unable to accurately predict the rainfall is lack of data collecting points. "India has a limited number of data collection points in the Arabian Sea. Currently, all our predictions are based on the data collected from the coastal area," he said.

## Govt rolls out AI-powered 'Kartavya' to track employees' presence in office

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The state government has introduced 'Kartavya' - an AI-powered attendance management system that tracks the physical presence of employees at workplaces - replacing the old biometric system.

Kartavya - Karnataka Advanced Attendance Management System - KAAMS, uses AI-based facial recognition, liveness detection and geofencing technology to ensure employees are physically present at their designated workplaces while marking attendance. The earlier biometric attendance system had limitations as employees could mark attendance digitally and subsequently stay away from their offices. Kartavya combines AI-powered facial authentication with GPS-based geofencing, allowing attendance to be marked only when an employee is within the authorised office premises.

The move follows Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's directive to enforce strict attendance during office hours and prompt response to public grievances.

Developed under the supervision of the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (e-Governance), the platform jointly built by the Centre for e-Governance (CeG) and the Karnataka AI Cell under DPAR has reduced vendor-related expenditure while enhancing data security and autonomy.

Integrated with Aadhaar e-KYC and the Human Resource Management System (HRMS), the dedicated Android and iOS applications enable employees to mark attendance, apply for leave and record official out-of-office duties.

A total of 4.78 lakh employees across 42 departments are being brought under the system.

The School Education department leads in adoption, with 1.68 lakh registrations out of 1.76 lakh employees and more than 1.41 lakh daily attendance entries.

## KIADB steps up land acquisition for industrial project in CB'Pur

**ASHWIN B M**
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) has expedited the land acquisition process for its massive industrial development project in Shidlaghatta taluk of Chikkaballapur district.

The board has issued official notices to local farmers, giving details on fixed compensation packages and demanding immediate surrender of original property documents to clear way for development.

According to official notifications, the board has finalised a tiered compensation structure based on proximity to major transport corridors for the proposed Sir M V Deep Tech Park.

Farmers continue their sit-in protest for the 93rd day against land acquisition in front of the DC's office in Chikkaballapur on Monday. DH PHOTO/ASHWIN B M

Landowners in Taduru and Yannanguru whose properties fall within a 100-meter radius of Jangamakote-Shidlaghatta main road have been offered a premium rate of Rs 1.55 crore per acre.

Interior lands in same villages, along with all notified survey numbers in Kotliganahalli, have been priced at Rs 1.45 crore per acre.

Further inside the cluster, lands in Kolimi Hosuru village, spanning 119 acres, have been pegged at a lower rate of Rs 1.25 crore per acre.

To ease transition, the board has cleared an additional incentive of Rs 5 lakh per acre as a land conversion allowance for specific qualified landowners across these sectors.

The KIADB has issued a 15-day deadline from date of receipt of notice for landowners who agree to fixed price to submit consent letters.

Farmers who do not agree to consent-based pricing mechanism have been directed to file their formal written objections within the same 15-day window.

This push by the KIADB comes amidst the simmering tension in the region. Farmers in Jangamakote village have been staging demonstrations outside the office of the Chikkaballapur deputy commissioner for over 90 days now, resisting the acquisition of a total of 2,823 acres of fertile agricultural land.

Farmer bodies argue that the region is heavily dependent on sericulture and milk production, and forcing rapid industrialisation will displace thousands of rural livelihoods.


**GULBARGA UNIVERSITY JNANA GANGA CAMPUS**
**KALABURAGI-585 106,** Karnataka, Phone: No.08472-263202,
Fax:08472-263206, E-mail:registrargug@rediffmail.com

No. Guk/Engg/AEE-A/2026-27/ 130 Date: 10.06.2026

**TENDER NOTIFICATION PUBLIC PROCUREMENT**

1) Name of work Tender for Upgradation and Digitization of Seminar/ Lecture Halls for Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Audio Video Equipment at Gulbarga University Kalaburagi. 2) Amount put to tender : **Rs.9,68,00,000=00,** 3) Eligibility As per tender notification, 4) EMD Amount : **Rs.9,68,000=00**, 5) KPPP Tender Indent Number : GU/2026-27/IND0028, 6) Pre Bid Meeting : Date 22.06.2026 at 11.00 AM, 7) Last Date for receipt of tender : 10.07.2026, 8) Opening of tender : 13.07.2026, 9) For more information contact Registrar, Gulbarga University Website Address https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Registrar
Gulbarga University, Kalburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/214/Deshpande Publicity/2026-27

Government of Karnataka
**RURAL DRINKING WATER & SANITATION DIVISION, BIDAR**

Ref:EE/RDWSD/Bidar/Tender/PB-6/2026-27/ 277 Date: 11.06.2026.

**Tender Notification**

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer RDWS & S Division Bidar invites Tenders from eligible bidders for the works above **Rs.66.23 Lakhs** (01 work) as per KW-3 Standard Tender Bid Document under KKRDB 2024-25 through e-Procurement platform https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only.The KTPP Act shall be followed TIME SCHEDULE: 1) Notification Date and Download of tender schedule documents through e portal **12.06.2026 to 02.07.2026,** 2) Last date for submission of bids **02.07.2026 Time : 17.00 PM,** 3) Date & Time of Technical bid opening **03.07.2026 Time : 17.30 PM,** 4) Date & Time of Financial bid opening After Technical bid Approval For details of works and conditions, please contact this office in office hours or visit website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in where the details are available.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
RDW&S Division Bidar

DIPR/Bidar/58KSMC&A/2026-27

**BELAGAVI URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**
Belagavi. Fax/Phone No: 0831-2470342, 2470257 E-mail: belagavibuda@gmail.com

No: BUDA/PWD/E-TENDER/2026-27/761 Date: 12-06-2026

**TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement Portal)**

**Commissioner, Belagavi Urban Development Authority (BUDA), Belagavi** invites tenders from eligible Agencies for the works taken under Belagavi Urban Development Authority Grants in Standard Tender Document through e-Procurement - 02 Portal. For further details visit online Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The details of the time table of tenders are as follows.

| Sl. No. | Name of the Work | Indent No. | Estimated Amount of Work ( Rs. in Lakhs ) | Tender Amount ( Rs. in Lakhs) | EMD Amount (in Rs.) | Work Execution Period |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Construction of Synthetic Turf-based Multisport Ground with Revenue Sustainability Plan Belagavi North Constituency. | BGMUDA/ 2026-27/ OW/WORK_ INDENT240 | 220.00 | 184.41 | 3,30,000/- | 06 Months (Including Monsoon) |

**Tender Form Fee as per e-Procurement Portal:**
**1)** Last Date for Submission of Tender Queries: **29-06-2026 upto 4.30 PM. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting Date and Place: **03-07-2026 at 12.00 PM in Belagavi Urban Development Authority Office, Belagavi. 3)** Last Date for Submission of Tender: **17-07-2026 upto 4.30 PM. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid on **18-07-2026 at 5.00 PM. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **will be intimated in e-Procruement Portal. 6)** Below mentioned Officers of Authority have all the rights to Accept or Reject the Tender without giving any reason. **7)** GST Amount will be paid to the Tendered Amount Separately.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Belagavi Urban Development Auhority
Belagavi

Sd/-
Commissioner
Belagavi Urban Development Auhority
Belagavi

DIPR/Belagavi/433/Adverto/2026-27

**BANGALORE CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION**
Office of the Joint Commissioner Zone-1, Mayohal
Mayohal Premises, Bangalore - 560 001

No.BCCC/JC-1/TEND/10/2026-27 Date: 15.06.2026

**INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER**
**(Only through Kppp Portal) Two Cover System(call-2)**

The Joint Commissioner (Zone-1), BCCC, Bangalore on behalf of the Commissioner, BCCC invites tenders from eligible Contractors firm registered in Bangalore central city corporation or equivalent registration with Labour Department or Related Department or any State Government Organizations for the work as detailed in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for Service given in the table through kppp portal of the Government of Karnataka **(viz https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in)**. The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified as per RFP Documents the Instructions to Tenderers to qualify for award of the contract **2.**Tender documents may be downloaded from the kppp portal of the Government of Karnataka from **17.06.2026. 3.**Tenders must be submitted online through kppp portal on or before 16.00 hours on **02.07.2026. 4.** Other details can be seen in the tender document.

| Sl. No. | Description of the work/ EMD amount in Rs. |
|---|---|
| 1 | Providing services for Mapping of buildings and campuses using Total Stations & documenting floor wise land utilization area statements. including all Taxes and Services. EMD (in Rupees): **1,00,000/-.** |

**1)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **23.06.2026 at 16.00Hrs** noon in the office of the Joint Commissioner-1, BCCC, Residency Road, Mayohal Premises Bangalore.
**2)** Technical Bids will be opened on **: 06.07.2026 at 16.00 hrs.**

Sd/- Joint Commissioner zone-1, BCCC

**BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION**
Executive Engineer, Traffic Engineering Cell Division,
Bengaluru Central City Corporation, Room No:09, Ground Flooor, Annex Building-3,
Greater Bengaluru Authority Premises, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002
e-Mail:tecbccc@gmail.com

No:BCCC/EE/TEC/Tend/02/2025-26/Call-3 Date:15-06-2026

**INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)**
(Through **GOK KPPP** only)

The Executive Engineer - Traffic Engineering Cell division, Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC), on behalf of the Commissioner Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC), invites online tenders from eligible and experienced private Operators for the work detailed in the table below.

| Sl No. | Description / Duration | EMD Amount in Rs |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Hiring, Operation and Maintenance of Using Latest Self-Propelled Mechanical Road Sweeping Machines with suction of capacity not less than 5 cubic meter and required no of tipper trucks including manpower, fuel, maintenance and all consumables, for sweeping length of 280 Km of roads within Bengaluru Central City Corporation limits on per-kiolmeter payment basis. (7 Years) | **Rs.1,00,000/-** through e-payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance **Rs.35,00,000/-** by e-Bank /Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/Scheduled Bank |

**Calendar of Events:** (1) Last date to upload pre-bid queries: **19-06-2026** upto **15:00** Hrs. in KPP Portal only. (2) Pre-Bid meeting on **20-06-2026** at **15:30** Hrs. at the Office of the Chief Engineer, Bengaluru Central City Corporation, Zone-2, Room No: 405, 4th Floor, Annex Building-3, Greater Bengaluru Authority Office Premises, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002. (3) Last date for submission of the Bids: **30-06-2026** upto **17:00** Hrs. (4) Date of Opening of Technical Bid on **02-07-2026** at **11:00** Hrs. (5) Date of Opening of Financial Bid on will be intimated to participant bidder through e-mail.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Traffic Engineering Cell,
Bengaluru Central City Corporation

**DIRECTORATE OF MINORITIES**
Maulana Azad Bhavan, No.16C, Miller Tank Bund Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560 052.

No: DOM/EW/COE_JEE/CR-01/2026-27 Date: 16.06.2026

**Announcement of Tender**

Tender has been invited by the Directorate of Minorities For the academic year 2026-27, in the Pre-University Colleges functioning under the Directorate of Minorities, in order to provide IIT-JEE (Mains & Advanced) coaching and other training programs. Interested & eligible bidders/Institutes can apply through e-Procurement Portal. The schedule of tender will be as follows.

| Sl. No. | Details | Date/Time |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Date of Tender Publication | 16.06.2026 |
| 2. | Tender Amount: | Rs. 900.00 Lakhs. |
| 3. | EMD Amount: | Rs.13,50,000/- |
| 4. | Pre-bid meeting: | 23.06.2026 at 11:30 a.m. |
| 5. | Last date and time for submission of tender: | 06.07.2026 by 5:30 p.m. |
| 6. | Date and time of Technical bid opening: | 08.07.2026 at 11:30 a.m. |
| 7. | Date and time of Financial bid opening: | 15.07.2026 at 11:30 a.m. (Tentative) |
| 8. | Place of tender opening and contact address: | Maulana Azad Bhawan, No.16C, Miller tank Bed Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560052. |
| 9. | Telephone No. to be contacted | 080-22535902 080-22535912. |

Other details can be obtained from the website of the Directorate of Minorities **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in** and e-Procurement website at: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Director
Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/1172/MAA/2026-27

**TOWN PANCHAYAT BHAGYANAGAR**
Phone No: 08539 234243 Email Id: itstaff_ulb_bhagyanagar@yahoo.com
Website: www.bhagyanagartown.gov.in

NO: TPB/KKRDB/2026-27 / 42 Dated : 15-06-2026

**E-Procurement Tender**
**(As per Standard Tender Procurement Bid Document KW-1,2,3)**

As per KTPP 2000 Act by the Order and in the name of Governor, Karnataka State Tenders are invite under KKRDB-2025-26 (MICRO) Grant Scheme for various Civil Work. Eligible registered bidders are requested to bid in One & Two Cover System via kppp Portal Website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on/or before the date mentioned as under through kppp portal only. Manual application will not be accepted. Further details contact under signed office at Working hours.In case of the Date of Bid Opening happens to be holiday because of any Special Circumstances/Govt. holiday, The Next Date is Considered as Date of Opening.

| Sl. No | Works Details | Estimated Cost (In Lakhs) | EMD (In Rupees) | Working Period |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | KKRDB-2025-26 (MIRCO) | | | |
| 1 | DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT59786 (P-1) | 100.00 | 200000.00 | 06 Months |
| 2 | DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT59787 (P-2) | 90.00 | 180000.00 | 06 Months |
| 3 | DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT59788 (P-3) | 37.00 | 74000.00 | 06 Months |
| 4 | DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT59789 (P-4) | 20.00 | 25000.00 | 06 Months |
| 5 | DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT59790 (P-5) | 75.00 | 150000.00 | 06 Months |
| 6 | DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT59791 (P-6) | 52.00 | 65000.00 | 06 Months |
| 7 | DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT59793 (P-7) | 60.00 | 75000.00 | 06 Months |

**Note: Any changes in Calendar of events will be published in kppp portal only.**
**Conditions:**
**(1)** Tender Submitted last date: **15-07-2026 at 5-30PM**
**(2)** Date & Time of Technical Bid Opening : **17-07-2026 at 11-00AM**
**(3)** Date & Time of Financial Bid Opening : **20-07-2026 at 11-00 AM After days**
**(4)** Package Details in **www.bhagyanagartown.mrc.gov.in**
**(5)** Work Completion Date in KW-1,2&3 – **06 Months.**
**(6)** The Sole Decision of Tender Acceptance & Rejection Authority of Chief Officer T.P. Bhagyanagar.
**(7)** More Details in Govt.e-procurement Webside in **http://www.karnataka.gov.in**
**(8)** ADD 18% GST ( As per Govt Order No.PWD51RDF2019, D:18-03-2022 will be added separately.

Sd/- Chief Officer
T.P. Bhagyanagar

Sd/- President
T.P. Bhagyanagar

DIPR/Koppal/162/DeshpandePublicity/2026-27

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# AI171 crash: A year without answers

One year after the crash of Air India's London-bound Boeing 787 Dreamliner in Ahmedabad, the reasons for the incident remain unclear. The AI171 came down 32 seconds after take-off, killing 241 of the 242 people on board and 19 on the ground. India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), an agency under the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation, is leading the official investigation, which also involves experts from Boeing, engine maker GE Aerospace, and the Federal Aviation Administration, the United States aviation regulator. In a preliminary statement that the AAIB released a month after the accident, it was claimed that the investigation was progressing, but it did not provide details.

The brief initial statement pointed to actions of the pilots, leading to charges and counter-charges, with no conclusive supporting evidence. The Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) questioned Western media reports based on the cockpit voice recorder transcripts, targeting one of the pilots. There is still no official clarification regarding these points of contention. On Friday, Union Minister of Civil Aviation K Rammohan Naidu said the investigation was continuing "with diligence and professionalism in accordance with established national and international procedures". The AAIB said the evidence and results of multiple examinations were being analysed in a "comprehensive and integrated manner" and the final report would be released upon completion of these procedures.

**As the investigation extends and speculation grows, accountability risks becoming the final casualty**

Experts have raised concerns over the investigation helmed by AAIB Director Sanjay Kumar Singh. It has gone on too long and without a clear timeline of its progress. It has been pointed out that the delay in releasing the report is inordinate and unusual. This delay has fuelled speculation and conjecture about the crash. Boeing has attracted adverse attention in recent years regarding safety practices relating to its aircraft. Earlier this year, the Foundation for Aviation Safety – a group of aviation safety campaigners – presented to the US Senate a report highlighting the Dreamliner's engineering flaws and maintenance issues. The delay has also led to apprehensions regarding the company or the US administration exerting pressure on the Indian side, risking a subversion of the probe. A finding that exposes technical flaws as a cause of the crash would be disastrous for the company. The government and the investigators should have fair processes and a just closure as their primary considerations. Finding the truth about the accident is paramount to render justice for those who perished in the crash and their families. Crucially, unearthing that truth will also signal the country's commitment to accountability and public trust.

# India cannot delay AI sovereignty

Earlier this year, Anthropic – one of Silicon Valley's most consequential artificial intelligence companies – chose Bengaluru as its second Asia-Pacific headquarters, signalling India's arrival as a serious AI destination. The company also outlined plans to support education, agriculture, and other public-interest applications, reflecting its ambition to use AI beyond purely commercial purposes. Now, Washington has intervened with a wake-up call that India's IT establishment cannot afford to ignore. Citing national security concerns, the United States has restricted access to Anthropic's newest and most powerful AI models for foreign users, amid fears that vulnerabilities could be exploited in sophisticated cyberattacks. Unlike earlier export controls aimed at semiconductor hardware, this marks one of the first instances where an AI model itself has been treated as a strategic asset. Anthropic is one of the world's leading developers of large language models alongside OpenAI and Google. Its flagship Claude models power advanced conversational and coding tools that businesses increasingly rely upon for research, software development, and automation.

The implications extend well beyond one company. For Bengaluru, India's largest technology ecosystem, which houses over 40% of the country's Global Capability Centres (GCCs), the restrictions highlight the risks of building products and services on foreign-controlled AI infrastructure. Hundreds of start-ups that were integrating these frontier models into their products and workflows now face uncertainty and may have to rewrite development roadmaps, migrate to alternative platforms or rely on less capable versions. While the disruption may be temporary, it serves as a reminder that geopolitical decisions can instantly alter access to critical digital tools and shatter the myth that the world's most advanced AI models will always remain available.

**The restrictions on access to Anthropic models expose the risks of depending on foreign-controlled AI infrastructure**

Globally, the move may accelerate a trend towards countries seeking greater technological self-reliance instead of depending entirely on overseas AI platforms. India, too, must confront an uncomfortable truth. For years, the country's largest technology companies have generated extraordinary revenues servicing Western AI systems rather than building their own. The resources, the engineering talent – much of it concentrated in Bengaluru – and the market need have existed. What has been conspicuously absent is the strategic will to invest in sovereign AI capability. The Anthropic episode should serve as a warning bell that access to frontier AI can no longer be assumed to be permanent or universal. For Bengaluru and India, the challenge now is to move beyond being service providers to the world and become creators and owners of the technologies that will define the next era.

A CULTURE OF INNOVATION

# Zaynich and the question India can no longer avoid

The FDA-approved antibiotic should inspire the country's transition from generic manufacturing to drug discovery

AMEER SHAHUL

The recent approval of Wockhardt's novel antibiotic Zaynich by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is more than a corporate milestone. It is a rare moment in India's pharmaceutical history. For decades, India has been celebrated as the "pharmacy of the world" – supplying affordable medicines to more than 200 countries, dominating the global generic drug market, and emerging as a vaccine manufacturing powerhouse. But behind this success lies an uncomfortable reality: India remains a laggard in discovering new drugs.

That is what makes Zaynich significant. Indian pharma companies have accumulated thousands of FDA approvals, mostly for Abbreviated New Drug Applications, for generic versions of medicines discovered elsewhere. These approvals testify to India's strengths in chemistry, manufacturing, regulatory compliance, and cost-efficient production. They do not, however, represent original innovation. Zaynich fills that gap. It is a medicine discovered and developed in India and approved by one of the world's most demanding regulators.

Its approval raises a larger question. Why is a country that mastered pharmaceutical manufacturing struggling in drug discovery?

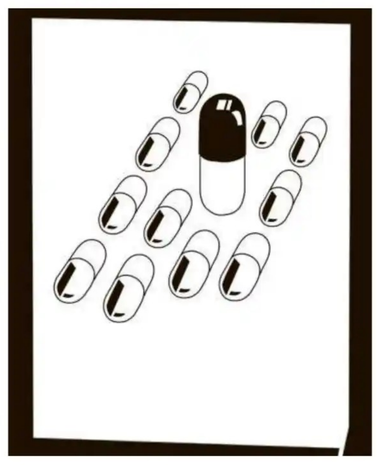
The answer lies not in a lack of talent or industrial capability. India produces thousands of scientists, physicians, and engineers every year, while its companies manufacture the most complex medicines and vaccines. The problem lies in the structure of the ecosystem and the incentives that have shaped it for decades.

Part of the explanation is historical. The Patent Act of 1970 abolished product patents for pharmaceuticals and permitted process patents. The policy broke multinational monopolies, lowered medicine prices, and enabled Indian companies to reverse-engineer expensive drugs. But it also shaped a culture. For nearly three decades, innovation meant finding cheaper and more efficient ways to manufacture existing molecules rather than discovering new ones.

When India eventually adopted product patents under the WTO's TRIPS agreement in 2005, the law changed, but the mindset proved harder to shift. India abandoned process patents, but never abandoned the process-patent culture.

This legacy coincided with another force: the extraordinary profitability of generics. Manufacturing generic versions of blockbuster medicines offered attractive returns with relatively limited risk. Drug discovery, by contrast, required patience, capital, and a willingness to tolerate failures. Developing a novel medicine can take more than a decade and cost billions of dollars, with most candidates failing along the way.

The result was a self-reinforcing cycle. Every successful generic launch strengthened the case for investing in more generics. And India's generic industry became so successful that drug discovery appeared to be a poor business decision. This created a paradox. India now occupies almost every major segment of the pharma value chain except



the most valuable one: invention.

Nowhere is this contradiction more visible than in clinical trials. India has emerged as one of the world's leading destinations for clinical research, accounting for 23% of all new trial registrations. Multinational companies are drawn by lower costs, a large and diverse patient pool, diverse ethnicity, and rapid recruitment.

It reveals India's subordinate position in the innovation chain. The molecules are conceived elsewhere, the intellectual property is owned elsewhere, and the strategic decisions are made elsewhere. India supplies patients, investigators, hospitals, and trial infrastructure, while the economic value of discoveries accrues overseas.

In brief, India is increasingly becoming the field where many of the new medicines are tested without becoming the laboratory where they are invented.

Contrast this with China. Two decades ago, India and China were on parallel trajectories. Today, Chinese biotechnology companies are routinely producing globally competitive novel medicines. Chinese-developed drugs have secured approvals in major markets, while Chinese biotech firms now command multi-billion-dollar licensing deals. India, by contrast, is celebrating its first FDA-approved novel drug.

The difference is not simply scientific capability. It is also the nature of investment. Western pharma companies invested heavily in both countries, but for different purposes. In India, Pfizer, Merck, Roche, Novartis, GSK, Sanofi, AstraZeneca, and others invested in contract manufacturing, marketing, contract research, and clinical trial networks to access a large market and leverage India's cost advantages.

India's academic ecosystem has also struggled to bridge the gap between science and commerce. Universities reward publications far more than patents, licensing agreements, or biotech spin-offs. Researchers are rewarded more for papers than commercialised technologies. As a result, promising discoveries frequently remain trapped in laboratories instead of advancing towards clinical development.

Even when promising ideas emerge, another obstacle appears: capital. India has built vibrant venture capital ecosystems around IT and internet businesses, but not in drug discovery, which requires patient capital willing to wait a decade or longer for returns. Funding between laboratory discovery and early human trials remains scarce. This "valley of death" has become the graveyard of many Indian biotech ambitions.

### Channelling new ambition

The challenge is becoming even more pressing because the foundations of biomedical innovation are shifting. India's success so far was built on chemistry. But the future belongs to biology. Advances in genomics, immunology, cell therapies, gene editing, RNA technologies, and biologics are transforming medicine. While India continues to produce outstanding chemists, it has yet to build comparable strength across many of the biological sciences to drive drug discovery.

The real significance of Zaynich is not that it is India's first major novel drug approval. It is that after half a century of pharmaceutical success, it forces the country to ask why it took so long.

India has already mastered drug manufacturing, exporting them, conducting clinical trials, and providing pharmaceutical services to the world. The next chapter of its pharma story depends on mastering one thing: inventing medicines.

That transition will require stronger academic-industry linkages, investments in biological sciences, patient venture capital, translational research, and a regulatory environment that encourages innovation. Above all, it will require a shift in national ambition – from being satisfied with making the world's medicines to aspiring to discover them.

Zaynich shows that such a future is possible. The question is whether India intends to make it exceptional – or make it routine.

(*The writer is the author of* Vaccine Nation: How Immunisation Shaped India. *His forthcoming title,* The Silent Syndicate: How Big Finance is Destroying India's Healthcare, *explores the changing dynamics of India's healthcare ecosystem*)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

# The pen that killed the blot

Unexpectedly, blotting paper bestowed an exalted status on me

NAGRAJ RAO

'What is that?' asked my grandson when I mentioned blotting paper to him. I can understand his reaction.

Blotting paper was used extensively in the 1950s and 1960s. Nobody uses it now. An arched-shaped blotting pad was ubiquitous in government offices. Most tables had an ink pot with two receptacles containing red and blue ink, along with two pens, one for blue ink and the other for red.

The pen here was just a holder fitted with a nib. It was the duty of the office peon to ensure that the ink pots were never empty, lest he get scoldings from his *saheb*. Whenever files were brought to the *saheb*'s table by the junior staff, the *saheb* would go through them and jot down notes or his signatures using a pen dipped in the blue ink pot. For particularly important remarks, the pen dipped in red ink would be used. The peon had to be ready with a blotting pad to absorb the excess ink and prevent it from smudging the paper.

After continuous use, the blotting pad would become covered with stains and had to be discarded and replaced by a fresh sheet of blotting paper. Even after the advent of fountain pens, blotting paper retained its use. We used cheap fountain pens that often leaked and smudged the paper, and we had to use blotting paper to soak up ink blots here and there.

Sometimes, I tried a 'smarter way' of covering up my one-word answers in class tests or homework by creating a large ink blot to hide my ignorance. But I soon realised that the teachers were already ahead of us, fully aware of such tactics employed by generations of students before us.

Unexpectedly, however, blotting paper bestowed an exalted status on me in middle school. My father was a medical doctor, and, in those days, representatives of pharmaceutical companies would visit him to promote their products. Along with samples of their wares, some of them supplied blotting paper carrying the name of their company or medicine on one side. These were in great demand among students.

My classmates coveted my stock of blotting paper and would butter me up to get this precious item. So I enjoyed a special status and, leveraging it, could get other stationery items from them, or special dishes from their tiffin boxes.

Alas! The advent of the ballpoint pen sounded the death knell of blotting paper.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Police should incapacitate criminals and focus on reform

This refers to 'Strong policing needs stronger safeguards' (Jun 15). Karnataka's plan for permanent anti-rowdy squads is timely. Organised crime now fuels land grabs, extortion and real estate disputes, moving far beyond street violence. District towns feed Bengaluru's underworld, so intelligence-led units that share data across jurisdictions can disrupt networks before they entrench. Institutionalising this approach, with periodic reviews, is wiser than reactive crackdowns. But rowdy sheets and preventive detention have often been misused, branding people for life and hurting jobs, travel and credit. Policing should incapacitate hardened criminals but also recognise reform. Strong police squads need stronger safeguards. Only then can tough policing protect liberty while breaking crime.
**K Chidanand Kumar**, Bengaluru

## Weakening democracy

I refer to 'Nomination rejected, democracy undermined' (June 15). The editorial rightly points out that Congress leader Meenakshi Natarajan's rejected nomination papers for the Rajya Sabha election from Madhya Pradesh and the Supreme Court's refusal to grant her relief are tantamount to playing ducks and drakes with our electoral democracy. It appears that the very institutions that are expected to uphold the constitutional values are compromised.
**M Basavaraj**, Davanagere

## Additional duty unfair

Apropos 'Levies to fund affordable housing?' (Jun 15), the intent of the government to create a dedicated corpus fund for financing a housing scheme for the economically weaker section is appreciable. However, the means for mobilising this fund need deliberations. Particularly, levying additional stamp duty on second homes and fees on vacant sites appears to be unfair.
**H V K Bhatta**, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

There is a narrative floated by the Karnataka government that the state does not get its due. The numbers tell a very different story.

**Nirmala Sitharaman**, Union Finance Minister

Experts often possess more data than judgment.

**Colin Powell**

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

# The morality of resignation

Ministerial resignations are not signs of weakness but affirmations of trust and accountability

LT GEN BHOPINDER SINGH (RETD)

Traditionally, India's democratic experiment has been guided by a combination of constitutional provisions and public morality. Since the law cannot account for every failure of governance, and accountability requires a human face, ministers are expected to own the actions and failures of their departments, even when they are not personally at fault. The Indian political system, based on the Westminster model, regards a minister's resignation on grounds of 'moral responsibility' as the highest expression of public accountability.

There are compelling practical arguments in favour of such resignations. Foremost among them is the principle that authority and responsibility are inseparable. Second, the symbolism of resignation demonstrates that governments take failures seriously and that no individual is above the consequences of institutional shortcomings. Finally, resignation elevates the value of personal integrity—a virtue that appears increasingly diminished in a political culture where 'winning at any cost' has become the norm. Since 2017, when Suresh Prabhu resigned as the railway minister, accepting moral responsibility for failures in ensuring passenger safety, the central government has seen no comparable act of individual accountability, integrity, or selflessness.

### Propriety of public office

Globally, political systems that uphold the principle of moral responsibility through ministerial resignations tend to demonstrate higher standards of ethics and accountability. Japan, for instance, has a deeply rooted culture of ministerial responsibility. Prime Minister Naoto Kan stepped down, citing shortcomings in the government's handling of natural disasters and the Fukushima nuclear crisis. In South Korea, Prime Minister Chung Hong-won resigned after accepting responsibility for the government's response to the Sewol ferry disaster. British politics offers another notable example in Lord Carrington, who resigned as Foreign Secretary following Argentina's unexpected invasion of the Falkland Islands. Explaining his decision, Lord Carrington remarked, "I think that if things have gone wrong in your department, then you are responsible."

In India, former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri occupies a unique place in the annals of history for placing personal accountability above legal compulsion. For Shastri, accepting responsibility when things went wrong was not an exercise in political theatre, or moral grandstanding. It was a matter of probity, propriety, and dignity. As railway minister, he tendered his resignation on two occasions, with the second being accepted after a devastating railway accident in Ariyalur, Tamil Nadu, claimed 144 lives. Although responsibility could have been assigned to technical personnel within the Railway Board, Shastri chose to shoulder the burden himself.

Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, while accepting Shastri's resignation, eloquently captured the moral basis of his decision. He observed that he did not hold the railway minister personally responsible for the tragedy and regarded him as a colleague of the highest integrity, loyalty, and dedication. Yet it was precisely because Shastri was a man of conscience that he felt deeply the weight of any failure occurring under his charge.

Others have followed similar paths. Lal Krishna Advani, one of the principal architects of the current political dispensation, temporarily resigned from Parliament in 1996 after his name surfaced in a corruption investigation. Although he had not been proven guilty and was later cleared, he stepped down to preserve public confidence in the office he held. Such acts strengthen, rather than weaken, the foundations of democracy, particularly in an era when symbolism is often reduced to media spectacle, social media optics, and manufactured outrage.

Recent years have witnessed several instances of questionable administrative and personal failures, yet the response has too often been marked by hubris, indifference, or the shifting of blame onto subordinates. Whether it is allegations emerging from the controversial inclusion in the Epstein files, foreign policy disasters, or glaring failures in the conduct of national examinations e.g., NEET — the institutionalised pattern of apathy remains the same. No one accepts responsibility, no one resigns, and governance proceeds as if nothing has happened.

One possible explanation lies in the increasingly centralised nature of political decision-making and communication. In such a system, both success and failure are often attributed directly to the head of government, leaving little room for ministers to independently own administrative lapses. Perhaps the political cost of displaying integrity, humility, and accountability in such moments may be perceived as too high, overall. Yet resignation need not be viewed as empty symbolism, political posturing, or a sign of instability. Properly understood, it is a powerful affirmation of morality, responsibility, and public trust. Far from weakening democracy, the willingness of leaders to accept moral responsibility strengthens its ethical foundations. But that would happen if the health of democracy were considered more important than winning elections at any cost.

*(The writer is the former Lt Governor of Andaman and Nicobar islands and Puducherry)*

# Mini hydel, mega damage: Elephants, tigers and the Cauvery at risk

GIRIDHAR KULKARNI

From the riverine forests of the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary to the rugged hills of Malai Mahadeshwara and the rich woodlands of Biligiri Ranganatha Swamy Tiger Reserve lies one of southern India's most important wildlife landscapes. Together with Bandipur Tiger Reserve in Karnataka and the adjoining Mudumalai and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserves in Tamil Nadu, these protected areas form a vast conservation continuum supporting some of the largest remaining populations of elephants and tigers in the country.

Flowing through this landscape, the Cauvery is more than a river—it is its lifeline. Fed by tributaries, perennial streams and seasonal watercourses descending from surrounding hills and valleys, it sustains wildlife across seasons.

Yet this ecologically invaluable region now faces a familiar threat: one new mini hydroelectric project and two proposals seeking renewal or re-diversion of forest land for existing hydel projects, all proposed along the Cauvery River within the Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary under the jurisdiction of the MM Hills Wildlife Division.

The timing could not be more disturbing. In June 2025, five tigers died in the Hoogyam Range of MM Hills Wildlife Division in confirmed cases of retaliatory poisoning. Another tiger death followed in October 2025, also confirmed as retaliatory. Six tiger deaths within months are not isolated incidents; they are warning signals from a landscape under severe ecological stress and escalating human–wildlife conflict.

Despite being projected as clean renewable energy, mini hydroelectric projects have consistently been associated with serious ecological impacts. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India, in its 2017 Performance Audit on Karnataka's Protected Areas, found that such projects fragment habitats and cause landscape-level disturbances through canals, penstocks, roads, transmission lines and allied infrastructure. The audit further recorded impacts on river hydrology, aquatic ecosystems, fish migration and forest integrity, along with disruption of elephant movement routes and increased human–elephant conflict.

The Karnataka Elephant Task Force, constituted by the High Court of Karnataka, reached similar conclusions, identifying the Cauvery landscape as a critical elephant habitat and warning that hydel infrastructure could fragment forests, disrupt elephant home ranges and intensify conflict, particularly along riverine corridors.

These concerns are especially significant because one of the proposals pertains to a mini hydroelectric project that received forest clearance in 2005 for the diversion of 4.863 hectares of forest land for 20 years, ending in 2025. The proposal was recommended for rejection at the time by the then principal chief conservator of forests and head of the forest force on ecological grounds, noting that construction of the hydroelectric project would adversely affect the Gaganachukki Falls and diminish its ecological and scenic integrity. However, the recommendation was later overruled at the government level.

With the lease period now expiring, a renewal proposal has been recommended by the Karnataka government's forest department and forwarded to the government of India.

What makes this development particularly troubling is that the ecological suitability of mini hydel projects in this landscape had already been examined in 2012–13 by a subcommittee of the Karnataka State Board for Wildlife led by former Indian cricket team captain Anil Kumble. After field inspections and ecological assessment, the committee recommended rejection of the proposed mini hydel projects in the area. It was of the view that the 2005 project should not have been established in such an ecologically sensitive area and further recommended that it should not be renewed after its expiry in 2025. This conclusion gains further relevance today amid rising conflict and recent tiger mortality in the landscape.

The issue is therefore not merely about energy generation but about whether scientific evidence, audit findings, and expert recommendations can be disregarded while permitting further fragmentation of a landscape critical to India's elephant and tiger populations.

If rivers are reduced to power channels and forests to land banks awaiting diversion, what is lost cannot be restored through compensatory afforestation or mitigation plans. A fragmented corridor cannot guide a wandering elephant home. A poisoned tiger cannot be brought back. A stripped river cannot be ecologically recreated.

The choice before us is not mini hydel versus no hydel. It is short-term commercial gain versus the long-term survival of one of India's most important wildlife landscapes. The Cauvery has already given enough. It is time to allow the river to flow, the forests to remain connected, and the wildlife to endure in peace.

It is high time that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change examines these proposals and rejects them in accordance with law and ecological considerations. It is also hoped that the Central Empowered Committee constituted by the Supreme Court examines these proposals and recommends appropriate action.

Karnataka, by appointing former Indian cricket team captain Anil Kumble as ambassador for wildlife conservation in 2025, signalled its commitment to his expertise and genuine concern for conservation. This responsibility should extend beyond the appointment to due respect for the recommendations of the committee he led.

*(The writer is a wildlife conservationist)*

For months, Asia has suffered a physical supply crunch that will likely drag on its economies long after the crucial waterway reopens

RIVER AKIRA DAVIS

An Iranian woman walks past an anti-Israeli mural, after U.S. and Iranian officials said they had reached a deal to end their war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, in Tehran, Iran. REUTERS

# Hormuz reopening may bring relief to Asia, not recovery

World leaders on Monday welcomed a new cease-fire deal and diplomatic road map to ending the months-long US war with Iran, as Iranians expressed wary relief that a conflict that has killed thousands across West Asia could soon end.

The agreement to reopen the Strait of Hormuz would offer near-term relief for Asia, the region outside of West Asia that has borne the brunt of the economic fallout from the war. Even so, the shock waves of the crisis are likely to ripple through the end of the year, and possibly well beyond.

Over the past three-and-half months, currencies across Asia have plummeted, inflation has surged, and supply-chain bottlenecks have begun to choke industrial production.

The disruptions trace back to Asia's heavy reliance on energy and other commodities that move through the Strait of Hormuz. More than four-fifths of the petroleum and liquefied natural gas transiting the waterway is typically bound for Asian markets.

On Sunday, President Donald Trump said in a social media post that an interim ceasefire agreement reached by the United States and Iran would reopen the strait, and that he had authorised "the immediate removal of the United States Naval blockade" on Iranian ports. The deal is scheduled to be signed Friday.

"Ships of the World, start your engines," he wrote. "Let the oil flow!"

If an agreement to reopen the strait holds, it will provide an immediate reprieve, freeing hundreds of tankers laden with oil, gas, and fuel byproducts to begin making the month-long journey back to Asian ports.

Still, industry experts and economists caution that because trade flows have been disrupted for so long, global markets will need considerable time to normalise — meaning elevated inflation and supply-chain strains are likely to linger through the end of the year.

For Asia, "the good news is that once the strait opens, oil and some gas come back," said Joshua Ngu, vice chair of Asia Pacific at the energy consultancy Wood Mackenzie. The bad news, he added, is that over the past three-plus months, "every day the strait has remained closed, the economic disruptions have grown exponentially and bled further down the supply chain."

Those disruptions, Ngu said, "won't be solved in a short period of time."

In Asia on Monday, country leaders celebrated the ceasefire deal. Markets across the region rallied, with benchmark stock indexes in Japan and South Korea both climbing around 5%.

Japan's prime minister, Sanae Takaichi, wrote on the social platform X that the agreement was a "major step toward a resolution." She also said she hoped that "free and safe navigation in the Strait of Hormuz will actually be ensured."

In a joint statement, Australia's prime minister, Anthony Albanese, and foreign minister, Penny Wong, said they were pleased that the agreement included steps toward reopening the strait and restoring freedom of navigation.

"While full recovery will take time, restoring this vital trade corridor is essential to easing pressure on energy prices and economies, including in our region," the statement said.

While Western nations have largely experienced the crisis at the gas pump and through higher jet fuel prices, Asia has been grappling with an acute physical supply shortage for months. Throughout developing Asia, economic growth forecasts have been downgraded as shortages of crude oil and natural gas force countries to ration power.

A return to safe shipping lanes would brighten the outlook significantly for countries heavily dependent on Middle Eastern energy, including Pakistan, Vietnam, and the Philippines — the last of which has declared a national energy emergency and ordered mandatory consumption cuts.

Wealthier economies, including Japan and South Korea, have leaned on their deep pockets and strategic reserves to cushion the initial blow.

Even these industrial powerhouses, however, have struggled with soaring oil prices that have weighed on their currencies, and with supply disruptions that only a resumption of trade flows can begin to alleviate.

Economists worry that these pressures will outlast the immediate geopolitical crisis. The turnaround time alone — for ships to clear the strait, reach their final destinations, and return — will take months, a timeline that could easily slip if fears of renewed Iranian aggression or a lack of insurance coverage keep vessels away.

Inflationary pressures tied to disruptions in the flow of oil, gas, and their byproducts are also likely to prove sticky. Liquefied natural gas prices in Asia, for example, are typically indexed to oil prices and operate with a three- to six-month price lag. This means that even if oil prices come down in June, elevated natural gas prices are likely to persist through the end of the year.

"From a price increase perspective, we've not even necessarily seen that play through fully," said Wood Mackenzie's Ngu. In gas markets, "the $100 oil price that we saw in March will only fully come through three to six months from then," he said. As a result, "we are still in a very precarious time."

Supply-chain snarls are poised to drag on as well.

One of the conflict's biggest economic casualties has been the global fertiliser supply. Five major exporters — Iran, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain — collectively supply more than one-third of the world's stocks of urea, the dominant form of nitrogen fertiliser. The disruption has already cut into the peak planting season across much of Southeast Asia, which runs from May to July.

"A disruption of a month or so is manageable, but if it bleeds far into the planting season, the reduction in crop yields raises serious food security issues," said Albert Park, chief economist at the Asian Development Bank. "The impact will be delayed, meaning we likely won't see the brunt of the production shortfalls until later in the year."

Elsewhere, businesses in Japan and South Korea have been contending with a shortage of naphtha, a petrochemical byproduct of crude oil refining used in plastic wrap and food packaging. Limited supply of other commodities, including helium and liquefied petroleum gas, has strained everything from cooking to medical imaging.

For naphtha, restoring supply chains to normal will likely take at least a year after Middle Eastern shipments resume, said Haruhiko Sakaino, an adviser to Japan's Agency for Natural Resources and Energy. The hurdles start with small businesses that must scramble to ramp production back up. "It won't be as simple as resuming imports," he said.

"It's like capillaries that have been destroyed. They take a long time to recover," Sakaino said.

The framework announced on Sunday by US President Donald Trump and Iranian officials includes a cease-fire of 60 days to pave the way for negotiations toward a final peace agreement.

The preliminary deal, the text of which has not been released, could still come apart, and the negotiations to come are likely to be complex. They are expected to include Iran's demands that the Trump administration ease American economic sanctions, and US demands for further limits on Tehran's nuclear programme — two issues on which neither side has shown much willingness to compromise.

**The New York Times**

# Taxing yesterday, regulating tomorrow

DEBARSHI CHAKRABORTY

The Supreme Court's decision upholding the retrospective goods and services tax (GST) levy on online gaming may have resolved a long-running legal dispute, but it has simultaneously exposed a deeper contradiction. The judgment settles what the law permits; it does not answer whether the resulting outcome makes economic sense.

The dispute arose from legislative efforts to bring online gaming involving stakes within the broader regulatory framework traditionally applicable to betting and gambling. The Tamil Nadu Gaming and Police Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021 and the Karnataka Police (Amendment) Act, 2021, expanded state gaming laws to cover online and cyber gaming, significantly narrowing the protection previously available to games of skill. The Supreme Court accepted the legislative characterisation and, with it, the tax consequences that flowed from it.

It is interesting how the tax base is calculated. Gaming operators had argued that GST should be levied only on the platform fee or the gross gaming revenue they retained. The Court, however, upheld taxation on the entire value of stakes placed by players. For the gaming industry, the difference is substantial. A tax on platform revenue affects profitability, whereas a tax on total stakes alters the scale of liability altogether.

Moreover, the Court accepted the legislative treatment of the relevant amendments as clarificatory. That finding enabled retrospective operation and allowed tax demands to travel back into the past.

Courts have repeatedly recognised that a legislature may enact retrospective tax legislation, especially where an amendment only clarifies what the law always meant. If the amendment is only clarificatory, the law is deemed to have always carried that meaning, even if taxpayers and tax authorities spent years disputing each other's interpretation. From this viewpoint, the judgment is not novel or surprising.

The issue is not whether a state can impose a retrospective tax; it is whether it should do so in a manner that may undermine the future viability of the very industry from which it seeks to recover revenue. Retrospective taxes are financial events. A substantial historical liability affects working capital, liquidity, lending, investments and valuation.

A retrospective demand of such a scale can only be serviced if the underlying business remains capable of generating cash inflows. If that gets weakened, either through regulatory restrictions, licensing uncertainties, compliance burdens, or shifting state-level policies, the ability to satisfy those historical liabilities becomes shaky.

The state's approach pulls in two different directions. On one hand, it treats the industry as a legitimate source of historical tax revenue. On the other hand, it continues to subject the industry to an evolving and uncertain regulatory environment. Are these positions incompatible? Not necessarily. But they certainly create tension.

A prospective tax regime allows businesses to adjust their future conduct. A retrospective regime imposes liabilities for decisions already taken. Similarly, prospective regulation allows firms to adapt business models and compliance structures. Regulatory uncertainty, by contrast, complicates investment decisions because the rules themselves remain unsettled.

The consequences are not difficult to understand. Management teams assess future earnings, solvency risks, access to capital, and enforcement exposure. If the anticipated future cash generation is insufficient to absorb a large historical liability, priorities unsurprisingly change. Growth and expansion become secondary; preserving value becomes predominant.

In some cases, financial distress may follow, including the invocation of a voluntary insolvency mechanism. It is not to suggest that insolvency should be viewed as a legitimate means of escaping tax obligations. Nor does the judgment compel any gaming company to enter insolvency. The point is that insolvency becomes a foreseeable economic consequence where large retrospective liabilities coincide with uncertain future earning potential.

The state is entitled to classify, regulate, and tax online gaming through law. The Court has affirmed as much. But all these objectives must move in the same direction. An industry cannot simultaneously be treated as a valuable source of historical revenue and as a sector whose future is perpetually uncertain.

If online gaming is sufficiently legitimate to justify the collection of substantial historical GST revenue, then there must also be a reasonably stable framework governing its future operation. If, however, the sector is regarded as inherently problematic and therefore subject to continuing restrictions and uncertainty, the rationale for aggressively monetising its past becomes less clear.

*(The writer is an advocate at the Delhi High Court)*

## OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

**50 YEARS AGO: JUNE 1976**

### India watching racial tension in UK

New Delhi, June 15
India is following with "close attention" the recent developments in race relations in the United Kingdom. The Government of India has already conveyed to the British Government through various channels India's "concern" over the current racial tension in that country. India High Commission was also in touch with the Indian community in Britain. The Foreign Secretary, Mr. J. S. Mehta, had last week conveyed to the British High Commissioner here India's hope that "efforts would continue to calm the racial tension."

**25 YEARS AGO: JUNE 2001**

### HC quashes two notifications on civic chiefs' quota

Bangalore, June 15
The Karnataka High Court today quashed two recent State Government notifications reserving the posts of presidents and vice-presidents in 144 city municipal councils (CMCs), town municipal councils (TMCs) and town panchayats (TPs) for various caste groups and women. The court also directed the State Government to frame sufficient and adequate guidelines for the reservation of posts for effective implementation of the Constitutional guarantee of social justice.

OASIS | RADHIKA D SHYAM

# Guiding the mind to shape a better life

The quality of our lives is often determined not only by the circumstances around us but by the state of our minds. Every important choice, decision, relationship, and response to challenges is influenced by what is happening within us. When the mind is calm, clear, and balanced, we tend to make the right decisions. When it is clouded by fear, anger, stress, or confusion, our judgment can become distorted. Suppressed emotions buried in our minds manifest themselves as diseases, affecting our physical health, most times.

The mind is like a garden. Whatever we plant and nurture will eventually grow. Positive thoughts, gratitude, patience, and faith produce peace and wisdom. Negative thoughts, resentment, anxiety, and doubt create inner turmoil. Therefore, learning to manage our emotions is an important skills.

Our emotions reveal what is happening inside us. However, problems arise when emotions begin to control our actions. A moment of anger can damage a relationship. A wave of fear can prevent us from pursuing opportunities. A period of sadness can make us lose sight of hope. Spiritual growth teaches us not to suppress emotions but to understand, observe, and control them wisely.

One of the most effective ways to gain mastery over the mind is through self-awareness. Taking time each day for prayer, meditation, reflection, or quiet contemplation allows us to observe our thoughts without becoming overwhelmed by them. In stillness, we realise that we should control our emotions rather than let them control us, our moods, words and actions. This realisation gives us the power to choose our response rather than react impulsively.

Gratitude is another powerful tool. When we focus on blessings instead of shortcomings, the mind gradually shifts from scarcity to abundance. Likewise, forgiveness frees the heart from the burden of bitterness and creates space for peace and healing.

Faith also plays a vital role. Trusting that life has purpose, even during difficult seasons, strengthens resilience and helps us maintain inner stability. Challenges become opportunities for growth rather than reasons for despair.

Ultimately, controlling the mind is not about achieving perfection. It is about cultivating awareness, discipline, and spiritual strength. A balanced mind leads to better decisions, deeper peace, and a more meaningful life. By nurturing our inner world, we create a better outer world.

# Manipur women pick up the threads of survival in relief camps

## Those displaced by Meitei-Kuki conflict rebuild lives through weaving

FROM THE GROUND

SUMIR KARMAKAR
BISHNUPUR/KANGPOKPI, DHNS

The lives of Reena Mutum and Lamboithem Khongsai, like hundreds of others, have been scarred by the Meitei-Kuki conflict that erupted in May 2023. Their homes were torched, properties seized and families forced to flee miles away for safety.

The trauma of killings, arson and displacement took a toll on those in and around the relief camps. Many, crushed by the absence of peace and livelihoods, took their own lives. Yet amid the darkness and despair, women like Reena and Lamboithem — Meitei and Kuki, respectively — found a fragile ray of hope in weaving, a skill nurtured since childhood that now offered solace and survival.

"I learnt by watching others in our village," Reena told *DH* on Sunday at the Laisoi relief camp in Bishnupur district, about 50 km from Imphal.

A 28-year-old mother of two, she had fled Torbung Bangla village on the edge of Kuki-dominated Churachandpur district as the conflict raged.

"Nothing is left at home now," she said, despair etched on her face. Yet gradually, Reena began to regain hope and confidence as she took to weaving 'phanek and phi' — the traditional garments worn by Meitei women.

Reena Mutum, a displaced Meitei woman, at Laisoi relief camp in Bishnupur.

Lamboithem Khongsai, a displaced Kuki woman, in Kangpokpi.

At least 10 handlooms and a seed fund (an interest-free loan of Rs 10,000) provided by Eta Northeast Women Network, an NGO, offered a glimmer of hope. Founded in 2019 by Sophia Rajkumari, a Meitei woman based in the US, the NGO now supports a network of 4,000 women beneficiaries across communities.

Reena now weaves a pair of phi and phanek within 2 weeks, which is sold at Rs 10,000.

Meanwhile, at least 308 displaced Meitei persons have been living in the Water Sports Complex on the banks of the picturesque Loktak Lake, which the government converted into a relief camp.

"We found that most of the women already knew weaving or embroidery. So, with whatever donations we received, we began providing support," said Beerjurekha Samom, trustee and secretary of the NGO.

A few others, such as Priya Thiyam, are making items like cloth bags and gloves. Some have opened small shops, while others are growing vegetables or rearing livestock to support their families.

A similar ray of hope was visible at a relief camp in Akampat, Imphal, where about 400 people displaced from Kuki-dominated Moreh are taking shelter.

### Handloom camp

Lamboithem Khongsai, a displaced woman from the Kuki community, was busy at her handloom in a relief camp at L Songtun village in Kangpokpi, a Kuki-dominated district about 40 km north of Imphal. "These looms have given us hope to live," said Lamboithem, a mother of three, who fled C Zoulen village in 2023 after an attack by the Meiteis. Among the 70-odd inmates, several Kuki women are weaving traditional shawls.

According to the Manipur government, more than 43,000 displaced persons are sheltering in relief camps and prefabricated houses across nine districts.

## PM welcomes West Asia deal; hopes peace will be restored

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday welcomed the understanding reached between the United States and Iran on ending the conflict in West Asia, and hoped the implementation of the pact would help restore peace in the region and ensure the freedom of navigation.

President Donald Trump has announced that the US and Iran have finalised a deal to end their 107-day war, which triggered a global energy crisis.

"I welcome the understanding reached between the United States and Iran on ending the conflict in West Asia, which has caused serious economic disruption across the world and led to loss of life in many countries. India hopes that the implementation of this understanding will help restore peace and stability in the region and ensure the freedom of navigation and commerce," Modi said in a post on X.

The prime minister said India looks forward to deliberations on the remaining issues reaching a sustainable final agreement.

Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Gargaj speaks to the gathering, announcing Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann as "Guru Dokhi, Khalsa Panth Virodhi". PTI

## Mann declared anti-Khalsa over objectionable video

**CHANDIGARH, PTI:** The Sikh clergy at the Akal Takht on Monday declared Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann 'Guru Dokhi' and 'Khalsa Panth virodhi', as he was accused of lying regarding a purported objectionable video.

Bhagwant Mann

The Akal Takht is the highest temporal seat of Sikhs.

The Sikh clergy also summoned all Sikh MLAs, regardless of party affiliation, and the Punjab Cabinet before the Akal Takht on June 29 in connection with an anti-sacrilege law.

Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Kuldeep Singh Gargaj pronounced the edict from the 'faseel' (podium of the Akal Takht) after the 'five Singh Sahiban' (Sikh clergy) held a meeting in Amritsar.

Gargaj claimed that the video — purportedly showing a man resembling Bhagwant Mann — was found to be "authentic" by two forensic laboratories. The video was neither tinkered nor AI-generated, Gargaj said.

Mann allegedly remarked on 'Guru ki Golak' (a gurdwara donation box) and indulged in "objectionable activities" with the pictures of the "Sikh Gurus" in a video clip.

# India and Slovakia elevate ties, sign 11 pacts

## To work for implementation of EU free trade deal

BRATISLAVA, PTI

India and Slovakia on Monday elevated their ties to a comprehensive partnership and firmed up 11 agreements to expand the bilateral cooperation in a range of areas such as migration, digital technology and defence following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Slovak counterpart Robert Fico.

The two leaders also agreed to work towards the "earliest" implementation of the India-European Union free trade agreement that is expected to significantly shore up the bilateral economic engagement.

Modi is in Bratislava as part of his weeklong visit to Europe. It is the first visit to a European nation by an Indian PM.

"We have decided to elevate our relations to the status of a comprehensive partnership. This symbolises our shared beliefs, shared priorities, and shared future," he said in his media statement.

The comprehensive partnership aims to take bilateral relations to a new level, strengthen existing cooperation mechanisms and explore new avenues for deepening cooperation, both bilaterally and multilaterally.

The PM said he and Fico discussed ways to give a "new direction" to the ties.

Modi and Fico also agreed to enhance cooperation in the energy sector with a view to promoting energy security, sustainability and resilience through diversification of energy sources, including nuclear energy and geothermal power.

"Our potential is vast. Our aspirations are even greater. Automobiles, railways, advanced manufacturing, and green technologies are areas of particular interest to us," he said.

A Letter of Intent was finalised on defence cooperation.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Slovakia President Peter Pellegrini exchange gifts. Modi was conferred Slovakia's highest national award, the Order of the White Double Cross (1st Class). This marks the prime minister's 33rd international honour. PTI

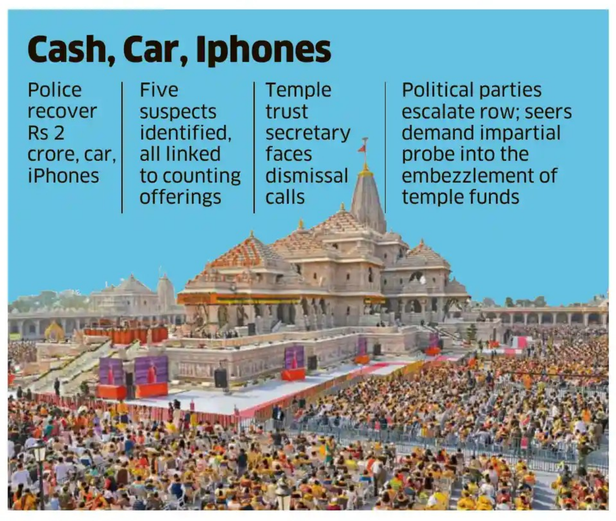
# Probe into Ram Temple missing funds intensifies; 'crores' siphoned off

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

The Ram Temple 'missing fund' case appears to be growing murkier by the day, with the alleged involvement of several temple trust employees, especially those responsible for counting cash offerings, even as the three-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) formed to probe the matter reached Ayodhya on Monday.

According to sources, the alleged embezzlement of offerings could run into crores. Police have so far recovered Rs 2 crore, a car and three iPhones from five suspects. Samajwadi Party leader Pawan Pandey claimed that between Rs 5 crore and Rs 7.5 crore may have been siphoned off.

Five suspects have been identified in connection with the case. They include Ramshankar Yadav alias Tinnu Yadav, Luvkush Mishra, Anukalp Mishra and two others — all of whom were involved in counting the offerings.


Cash, Car, Iphones
Police recover Rs 2 crore, car, iPhones
Five suspects identified, all linked to counting offerings
Temple trust secretary faces dismissal calls
Political parties escalate row; seers demand impartial probe into the embezzlement of temple funds

Earlier, a police team raided the residence of Luvkush Mishra in Meenapur Thakuran Fagauli village in Ayodhya on Friday and allegedly recovered around Rs 12 lakh.

Sources said an employee, whose identity was not disclosed, had first made the alleged embezzlement public. The matter was later taken up by SP leader Pawan Pandey, after which party president Akhilesh Yadav demanded court intervention.

Ram Temple Construction Committee president Nripendra Mishra said in Ayodhya that the SIT would identify those responsible for the embezzlement and also recommend corrective measures to ensure it did not recur.

Sources said the SIT members visited the trust office and inspected documents. They also met trust secretary Champat Rai, after meeting Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

AAP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh accused Rai of purchasing 'nazool' land worth Rs 3 crore for Rs 24 crore.

Meanwhile, the Congress put up a hoarding in Ayodhya declaring that those responsible for the embezzlement would "suffer in hell".

Firebrand saffron leader and former BJP MP Vinay Katiyar demanded the dismissal of Champat Rai. Earlier, senior BJP leader and former MP Brij Bhushan appeared to endorse the allegations of embezzlement of offerings, saying he could not reveal the truth as he feared the consequences.

Several Ayodhya-based seers also joined the issue. "An impartial inquiry must be held to ascertain the truth," said Mahant Kamal Nayan Das.

## Indian LNG carrier Disha safely crosses Hormuz

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Indian-flagged LNG carrier Disha has successfully navigated the Strait of Hormuz, marking the first such transit by an Indian vessel exiting the regional war zone in more than three months.

The vessel, managed by a Shipping Corporation of India-led consortium, is carrying 62,370 metric tonnes of LNG cargo and is expected to arrive at Dahej on June 18, according to officials.

Opesh Kumar Sharma, Director in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, confirmed the development on Monday while briefing the media on recent maritime developments in West Asia.

"The LNG carrier Disha has safely transited the Strait of Hormuz. The vessel is expected to enter Dahej upon its arrival in India, likely on the 18th," Sharma said.

The Directorate General of Shipping continues to work closely with the Ministry of External Affairs, Indian missions abroad, shipping firms and other stakeholders to ensure the safety and welfare of Indian seafarers.

A control room activated by the ministry has handled 12,737 calls and more than 28,299 emails in the last 96 hours. Of these, 406 calls and 784 emails were received directly from seafarers and other stakeholders.

## TTD signs MoU to improve food and 'prasadam' quality

**HYDERABAD, DHNS:** The governing body of one of the world's richest Hindu temples, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), has signed an MoU with the CSIR–Central Food Technological Research Institute (CSIR-CFTRI), Mysuru, to integrate scientific methods into TTD's food systems.

This comes amid the Tirumala laddu controversy and TTD's efforts to ensure that all food and sacred 'prasadams' are prepared and distributed with the highest standards of safety, nutrition and quality, while preserving their traditional character.

Under the agreement, joint teams will develop and implement rigorous quality-control standards, SOPs and monitoring mechanisms covering procurement, preparation and distribution.

# Mumbai water stock falls to 10-12%

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

The water stock in Mumbai has dropped to 10–12% of its total capacity as El Niño has disrupted and delayed the southwest monsoon, sparking concerns in India's financial capital.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), the civic body governing Mumbai City and Mumbai Suburban districts, implemented a 10% water cut across the city from May 15.

"We have around 10 to 12 % water stock left in Mumbai's lakes," a senior BMC official told *DH*, adding that the civic body has urged residents to conserve water and use it judiciously.

Mumbai's water supply comes from seven lakes — Upper Vaitarna, Modak Sagar, Tansa, Middle Vaitarna, Bhatsa, Vihar and Tulsi.

These reservoirs supply approximately 3.4 billion litres of water to Mumbai every day.

As of Monday, the seven lakes held 155,167 million litres of water against a total useful storage capacity of 1,447,363 million litres.

Residents collect drinking water from a tanker amid supply crisis in Solapur. PTI FILE

The BMC supplies around 3,800 MLD (million litres per day) of water, while more than 300 MLD is supplied through private tankers.

### Alarming situation

Elsewhere in Maharashtra, the situation is also becoming alarming.

Maharashtra's dams are currently at only 24–25% of their storage capacity.

In the first week of June 2025, Maharashtra was deploying 1,139 tankers to supply water to 1,420 hamlets and 858 villages.

The Pune division, which covers much of western Maharashtra, has the lowest water storage at just 14.41% of its total capacity.

The Amaravati division has the highest storage at 37.93%, followed by Nagpur at 36.43%.

The Konkan division has 30.31% water storage remaining, while the Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar division, which covers Marathwada, and the Nashik division, which oversees north Maharashtra, are at 27.46% and 25.03%, respectively.

## Centre assures adequate fertiliser supply for kharif season

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** The central government on Monday asserted that there is no shortage of fertilisers for the ongoing Kharif season, with farmers having already purchased over 37% of the projected requirement and substantial stocks available across the country.

According to the Department of Fertilisers, farmers have bought 102.78 lakh tonnes of chemical fertilisers so far this season.

The agriculture ministry has reassessed the total fertiliser requirement for Kharif at 383.9 lakh tonnes. As of Monday, stocks stood at 196.65 lakh tonnes, significantly higher than the usual buffer levels.

"Pending consumption is 281.12 lakh tonnes, and out of that we have 196 lakh tonnes available today," Bandana Preyashi, joint secretary in the Department of Fertilisers, told reporters.

She added that the stock position remains comfortable due to robust domestic production and timely imports.

## Telangana Cong starts inquiry into Meenakshi's RS fiasco

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

The Telangana Congress has launched an internal inquiry to determine whether party leaders leaked information about a private complaint filed in a local court to BJP that led to the rejection of Meenakshi Natarajan's Rajya Sabha nomination in Madhya Pradesh.

Meenakshi Natarajan

"AICC leadership has already sought information from the state leadership, and a parallel internal inquiry is on," said a senior Congress leader.

The complaint, which named Natarajan as a respondent, was not disclosed in her Rajya Sabha nomination papers, an omission that ultimately led to the rejection of her candidature.

Telangana unit chief B Mahesh Kumar Goud, who is also a respondent in the same complaint, is believed to have shared information with the high command.

The case has its roots in a police complaint filed in 2022 by a former municipal corporator, who had joined Congress from TDP.

The complainant, who is from the backward community, had alleged that Congress leader Kumbham Shiva Kumar Reddy molested her and used casteist remarks.

After her complaints allegedly went unaddressed by the party, she approached the 4th Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Hyderabad in May 2025, filing a protest petition that named seven Congress leaders as respondents, including Natarajan, Goud and Narayanpet MLA Chittem Parnika Reddy.

Last Friday, a local court returned that complaint.

ARTEFACT ALTERED

## NCERT to restore 'Dancing Girl' as torso cover-up sparks row

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has decided to replace the altered image of the iconic Indus Valley Civilisation artefact 'Dancing Girl' in its Class 9 art education textbook with the original version, following criticism over the depiction in the current edition.

Confirming the development, NCERT director Dinesh Saklani said the correction would be made immediately in the digital version of the textbook and incorporated into future print editions.

"As soon as the issue came to notice, the department concerned was directed to look into the matter. Following consultations with experts, it is replacing the image with its original version. The correction is being implemented immediately in the digital version of the textbook, while the revised print editions will carry the original version of the image," Saklani told ANI.

The controversy erupted after it was pointed out that the image of the famous bronze statuette, one of the most recognisable artefacts from the ancient city of Mohenjo-daro, appeared to have been digitally modified. The torso looked altered compared to photographs of the original artefact, with shading applied across the upper body that obscured anatomical details visible in the sculpture.

The depiction drew criticism from historians, archaeologists and educationists, who argued that altering a historical artefact compromised its authenticity and educational value.

Following the objections, the NCERT initiated a review of the image. Sources said the council consulted subject experts before deciding to restore the original photograph in the textbook.

The bronze figurine, dating back over 4,000 years, is regarded as one of the defining artistic achievements of the Indus Valley Civilisation. It is housed at the National Museum in New Delhi and is frequently featured in school textbooks as an example of early Indian art and craftsmanship.

The NCERT's decision is expected to address concerns raised by scholars and educators, who had urged the council to present historical artefacts in their original form. The revised image will now appear in both the digital and forthcoming print versions of the Class 9 textbook.

## Cockroach party founder slapped during Jaipur protest

**JAIPUR, PTI:** Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke was allegedly slapped multiple times by two men while supporters carried him on their shoulders during a protest here on Monday, police said.

Abhijeet Dipke

Two youths have been detained in connection with the incident, they said.

Following the incident, Dipke addressed the gathering and raised slogans against divisive politics, urging people not to be divided along religious or caste lines.

Later, in a video message on X, the CJP chief alleged that this (attack on him) is a tactic by those who want to "disrupt our movement".

"But we cockroaches will not be intimidated by these tactics. (Union Education Minister) Dharmendra Pradhan will have to resign...this is our only aim," he said.

"Don't get distracted. Dharmendra Pradhan Must Resign!" he also wrote on X.

According to police and eyewitnesses, the incident occurred at Shaheed Smarak where a number of youths had gathered to protest over issues such as the alleged NEET paper leak, CBSE marking system, and unemployment.

As Dipke arrived at the venue and was being carried on supporters' shoulders, two youths in the crowd allegedly slapped him. His supporters later caught hold of the accused and assaulted them before the police intervened.

Videos of the incident have gone viral on social media.

The police said that one of the detained accused, Rakesh Gurjar, claimed he was a nationalist while alleging that Dipke has a 'Jihadi' mindset and is misleading people. Gurjar said that the paper leak is just an excuse.

# Supreme Court to consider govt plea on transgender law petitions

## Stays HC proceedings on pleas challenging amendment

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Monday decided to consider a plea by the Centre seeking consolidation and transfer of all pending pleas challenging the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) (Amendment) Act, 2026, from various high courts to the top court.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice V Mohana stayed the proceedings before the HCs and issued notice on the transfer petition upon briefly hearing Solicitor General Tushar Mehta on behalf of the Union government.

He submitted that the constitutional validity of the central act was challenged, which the court was also seized with.

**CASE CLUBBING**

- Centre seeks consolidation of transgender law cases in SC
- Cites risk of conflicting rulings, with multiple HCs hearing same law
- Petitioner opposes transfer, calls amendment unconstitutional
- LGBTQ+ groups slam deletion of self-identification clause

As one of the petitioners before the HC contended that his petition was the most comprehensive and noted that he was a qualified doctor, the bench said, "We will definitely require your help. But it is better that all matters are taken up together—either we will assign them to one high court or we will decide ourselves, instead of having scattered opinions."

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta pointed out that the NALSA judgment delivered by the court in 2014 could make it difficult for HCs to take a contrary view. He said he would press for placing the matter before a three-judge bench, as the 2014 verdict was delivered by a two-judge bench.

One of the petitioners before the Delhi High Court, Chandresh Jain, opposed the transfer, contending that there was nothing in the amendment that was based on the NALSA judgment. He argued that the amendment was not only unconstitutional but also lacked any medical basis.

The SC, however, issued notice and decided to examine the matter.

The Supreme Court had in April sought the Centre's response to separate petitions filed directly before it challenging the constitutional validity of the amended law.

In its transfer plea, the Centre argued that with multiple HCs hearing the matter, there was a risk of divergent views and conflicting rulings on a central legislation.

# SC to hear plea seeking use of Aadhaar only as identity proof

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** The Supreme Court is to hear on Tuesday a plea alleging misuse of Unique Identification Authority of India-issued Aadhaar cards as proof of citizenship, domicile and residential address, and seeking directions to restrict its use for identity verification.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice V Mohana is likely to consider the PIL filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay.

The plea has sought directions to the Centre, states and the poll body to ensure that Aadhaar is used as a proof of identity and not as a proof of citizenship, domicile, address and date of birth.

The plea, filed through advocate Ashwani Dubey, also sought directions that the use of Aadhaar as a proof of date of birth and residence in the application form for new voter registration be considered against Section 9 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016, Section 23(4) of the RPA, 1950 and Article 14 of the Constitution.

"The UIDAI has issued 144 crore Aadhaar cards, and 99% of Indians have been enrolled. Therefore, the petitioner is filing this writ petition, seeking a direction to UIDAI to issue new Aadhaar cards only to children and frame new stringent guidelines for adolescents and adults, so as to stop infiltrators from getting it and masquerading as Indian citizens," the plea said.

# Top court to hear plea against unelected Bihar minister

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Deepak Prakash

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to examine a petition challenging the reappointment of Deepak Prakash as Bihar's Panchayati Raj Minister despite his not being an elected member of the state legislature.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice V Mohana issued notice on the plea filed by social activist Rakesh Kumar Singh, represented by advocate Sanya Kaushal.

The petition has named the Bihar government, Deepak Prakash, son of former Union Minister Upendra Kushwaha, the Cabinet Secretary, and the Election Commission of India as respondents.

The plea raises significant constitutional questions regarding the interpretation and limits of Article 164(4) of the Constitution, which allows a non-legislator to hold ministerial office for a maximum period of six consecutive months.

According to the petition, Prakash was first sworn in as Panchayati Raj Minister on November 20, 2025, in the Nitish Kumar-led Council of Ministers without being a member of either the Bihar Legislative Assembly or the Legislative Council.

The six-month constitutional window for him to get elected began on that date and was due to expire around May 19, 2026. However, on May 7, 2026, during an expansion of the Council of Ministers, Prakash was reappointed to the same portfolio even though he remained unelected and had already utilised nearly five months of the six-month period.

The petitioner contended that the reappointment amounted to a deliberate circumvention of Article 164(4) by "artificially fragmenting and reutilising" the limited constitutional grace period.

# 'More time, more damages': Gujarat HC warns Yusuf Pathan in land case

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

The Gujarat High Court on Monday granted former cricketer and lawmaker Yusuf Pathan four weeks' time to pursue his claim over a residential property measuring 978 square metres, while orally warning that any delay would increase the damages payable for his continued occupation of a Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC) plot.

"...Be mindful of the fact that the more time you take, the more damage you have to pay. Please keep it in mind. We have no difficulty in giving time because you have lost in one court already ... from 2014 to 2026 you have occupied the premises... even if there was

Yusuf Pathan

a policy, there is no decision in your favour. You continue to occupy the premises without paying a single penny," a division bench led by Chief Justice Sunita Agarwal told Pathan's lawyer.

While granting four weeks' time, the bench orally observed that even if Pathan were eventually allotted the property under the policy( allotment of land to international cricketers), he would still be liable to pay damages for the period between 2014 and 2026. The Chief Justice further clarified that the damages would not be "normal" but punitive in nature, as public land had been occupied without any legal authority.

Advocate Shalin Mehta, appearing for Pathan, sought three to four weeks' time, stating that his client was pursuing the matter under the relevant policy. He submitted that he intended to place the policy on record to demonstrate Pathan's entitlement to the land.

# MISCELLANY

## ◆ COMICS ◆

### Blondie

### Hagar The Horrible

WHEW! THAT CLIMB WAS A KILLER WORKOUT!
EXERCISE GIVES YOU PHYSICAL FITNESS, WHICH HELPS BRING YOU WELLNESS!
HOW DO YOU STAY PHYSICALLY FIT IF YOU ARE SITTING ON THIS MOUNTAIN DAY AFTER DAY?
I COMMUTE!

### Beetle Bailey

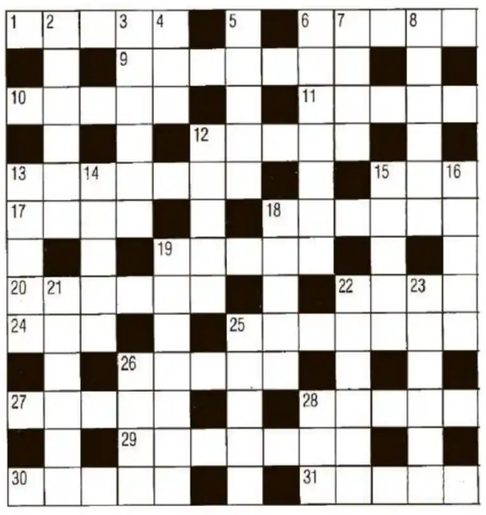
### Peanuts

"KISS ME ONCE AND KISS ME TWICE..THEN KISS ME ONCE AGAIN... IT'S BEEN A LONG LONG TIME..."
SHH!! YOU HAVE TO BE QUIET IN A LIBRARY, SIR!
JUST SINGING AN OLD WORLD WAR II SONG, MARCIE...
BET IT BROUGHT BACK A FLOOD OF MEMORIES, HUH, MA'AM?

### Marvin

YOU KNOW, BITSY, THESE WALKS WITH YOU ARE THE MOST PLEASANT MOMENTS OF MY DAY
THOUGH IT WOULD BE MORE PLEASANT IF I DIDN'T HAVE TO CARRY AROUND YOUR WASTE BAG

## CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12439



**ACROSS**
1 Steering device (5)
6 Grieve over (5)
9 Wool fat (7)
10 Watch band (5)
11 Beast of burden (5)
12 Suitably (5)
13 Truthfulness (7)
15 Apple seed (3)
17 Elderly (4)
18 Aureole (6)
19 Hairdresser's shop (5)
20 Happenings (6)
22 Quote (4)
24 Spoil (3)
25 Rich (7)
26 Secret agents (5)
27 Tear into small pieces (3,2)
28 Of sound or hearing (5)
29 React (7)
30 Cut off (5)
31 Sorts, kinds (5)

**DOWN**
2 Sausage in a roll (3,3)
3 Very happy (6)
4 Circuit (3)
5 Remembrance flower (5)
6 A thousand thousands (7)
7 Solely (4)
8 Stay (6)
12 Book of maps (5)
13 Seraglio (5)
14 At no time (5)
15 Postulate (5)
16 Quick, lively (5)
18 Traffic markers (5)
19 Plug, bung (7)
21 Travelling case (6)
22 Overcast (6)
23 Three times (6)
25 Sheds tears (5)
26 Certain (4)
28 Insect type (3)

**CRYPTIC**

**ACROSS**
1 It's rough when a raw beginner gets in a mess (5)
6 Because a gloss finish can be nice (5)
9 Maybe one has gasped about such a lady! (7)
10 What a couple can do when, again, there's an R in the month (5)
11 Highly disagreeable to be humble? (5)
12 Stop running some installation (5)
13 Million to one, to bet is an error! (7)
15 Keep the eggs warm, perhaps (3)
17 Complaint said to be a bit hackneyed (4)
18 Horse maybe born to give a cowboy a start? (6)
19 Essays by one in a state of rest (5)
20 Cried distractedly on finishing last, we believe (6)
22 Just what the doctor ordered (4)
24 Warm-hearted love for a sweep, perhaps (3)
25 Being drunk, sounded sloshed! (7)
26 Is she an enthusiast for New York? (5)
27 Bad mark for a boy getting out of line (5)
28 Not ignorant of a place in Herts (5)
29 They may well be keepers (7)
30 A reminder about the figures (5)
31 Stories ought to be out of my thoughts (5)

DOWN
2 Such figures are not Roman (6)
3 Fairy showing malice outright! (6)
4 There's a street market for it in London (3)
5 Bind or untie, possibly (5)
6 Vendors holding twice the cash as prophets (7)
7 One much admired though said to be idle (4)
8 One side of Glasgow (6)
12 As worn by the runner on the right? (5)
13 Another name for polo? (5)
14 Poles always scoff, it seems! (5)
15 Enquire about a non-starter said to be in the soup (5)
16 Drawn to matrimony? (5)
18 Sort of laugh when you flop as a diver? (5)
19 She was a colossal disaster (7)
21 Hardly a thing to keep baby quiet? (6)
22 Under the influence of Morpheus? (6)
23 As you hunt, the wild chase is about never-ending! (6)
25 Like the insinuation that there's a nepotistic leader in the team (5)
26 If wrong again, she's probably French (4)
28 Dear me, there's this branch in the river! (3)

**SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12438**

**CRYPTIC**
**ACROSS:** 3, Chews 8, Mo-R-se 10, Harry 11, L-Op. 12, Naiad 13, Flee-c-Ed 15, Llama 18, Co.-W 19, Key man 21, Sto-pp-er 22, Arcs 23, Su-re 24, Tripper 26, Report 29, Oil 31, Iren-E 32, Funfair 34, Sabot 35, Ic-e 36, Octet 37, Users 38, Tyres.
**DOWN:** 1, Lolly 2, Aspec-ts 4, Head 5, Whaler 6, S-ad-ly 7, Drama 9, Roe 12, NEW-port 14, Co.-o 16, Amour 17, Angel 19, Keep out 20, Maori 21, Scope 23, Selfish 24, Tr-eat-y 25, Pin 27, Ere-Ct. 28, Onset 30, F-i.e.-ry 32, Fore 33, Ace.

**EASY**
**ACROSS:** 3, Enact 8, Moses 10, Rifle 11, Boa 12, Nasal 13, Gourmet 15, Tenor 18, Sag 19, Beside 21, Cadaver 22, Ahoy 23, Cell 24, Senegal 26, Themes 29, Far 31, Sitar 32, Wipe out 34, Get at 35, Fun 36, Begin 37, Lurid 38, Celeb.
**DOWN:** 1, Robot 2, Hearsay 4, Neat 5, Crater 6, Tiles 7, Flood 9, Sou 12, Negates 14, Mad 16, Nigel 17, Reply 19, Benefit 20, Wants 21, Comet 23, Careful 24, Serene 25, Gap 27, Hides 28, Magic 30, Tunic 32, Wave 33, Our.

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

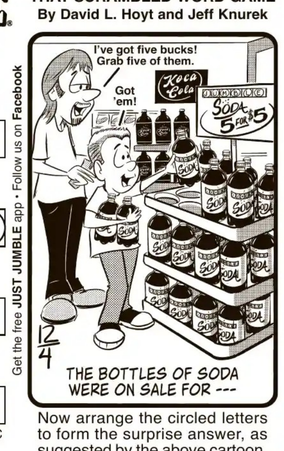
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ELALD

MORAA

YOERPS

LUPTCS




Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: HYENA ITCHY SUBMIT JOVIAL
Answer: The dog was spotted stealing from the pet store, and security was — ON HIS TAIL

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## ◆ SU-DO-KU-6933 ◆

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 4 | | | | 6 | | | 9 |
| 2 | | | | 3 | | | | |
| | | 3 | | | | 4 | | 2 |
| | | 7 | | | 5 | | 6 | |
| 5 | | | | | | | | 7 |
| | 3 | | 2 | | | 5 | | |
| 6 | | 2 | | | | 8 | | |
| | | | | 1 | | | | 3 |
| 3 | | | 7 | | | | 2 | 4 |

hard

**SOLUTION TO 6932**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 8 |
| 5 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| 8 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| 7 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| 1 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 9 |
| 6 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 3 |
| 3 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 4 |
| 4 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 1 |
| 9 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 5 |

**To solve the puzzle:** To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

## SCRABBLE™

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| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | |
| S1 | R1 | M3 | A1 | A1 | A1 | K5 | 1st Letter Triple | RACK 1 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| T1 | A1 | E1 | P3 | N1 | L1 | R1 | | RACK 2 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| R1 | H4 | Y4 | T1 | I1 | A1 | C3 | | RACK 3 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| E1 | R1 | Z10 | D2 | A1 | A1 | I1 | Triple Word Score | RACK 4 |

PAR SCORE 125-135
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

**YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F4 | A1 | T1 | A1 | L1 | L1 | Y4 | RACK 1 = | 71 |
| N1 | O1 | T1 | A1 | B3 | L1 | Y4 | RACK 2 = | 86 |
| A1 | L1 | L1 | E1 | Y4 | S1 | | RACK 3 = | 9 |
| S1 | H4 | I1 | M3 | M3 | E1 | R1 | RACK 4 = | 78 |
| P3 | I1 | C3 | C3 | O1 | L1 | O1 | RACK 5 = | 63 |

PAR SCORE 200-210 JUDD'S TOTAL 307

## HITORI-3387

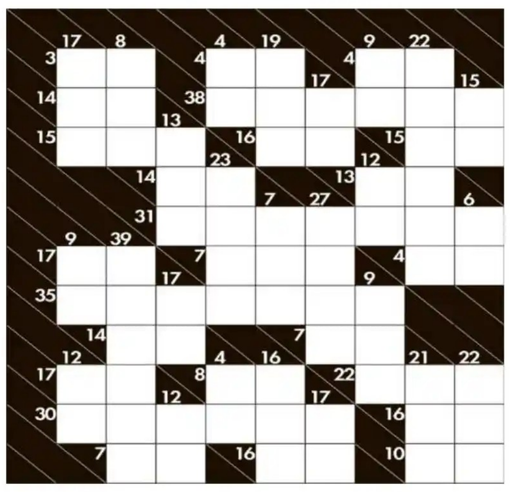
| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 7 |
| 7 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| 1 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 7 |
| 5 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 5 |
| 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 6 |
| 6 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| 4 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 2 |
| 1 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 8 |

**SOLUTION TO 3386**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 8 | ■ |
| ■ | 1 | 7 | ■ | 5 | ■ | 3 | 6 |
| 2 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 1 | ■ |
| 7 | 4 | 5 | ■ | 1 | 8 | ■ | 3 |
| ■ | 7 | ■ | 4 | 2 | ■ | 6 | 1 |
| 1 | ■ | 2 | 8 | ■ | 6 | ■ | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 1 | ■ | 3 | 2 | 4 | 7 |
| 4 | ■ | 3 | 1 | 8 | ■ | 7 | ■ |

**To solve the puzzle:** Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

## KAKURO- 3387



**SOLUTION TO 3386**

**To solve the puzzle:** Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

## SU DO KU X - 3948

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ■ | | | | | 7 | | | 2 |
| | 2 | | | | 1 | | ■ | 4 |
| | 4 | 9 | | 3 | | ■ | | 1 |
| 5 | 9 | | ■ | | ■ | | | |
| | 1 | | | | 5 | | | |
| | | | ■ | | ■ | 8 | | |
| | | 4 | | | 2 | ■ | | 7 |
| | ■ | | | 7 | | | 4 | 6 |
| ■ | | | | | | | | ■ |

**SOLUTION TO 3947**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 4 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 7 |
| 1 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 6 |
| 9 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 2 |
| 3 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 5 |
| 5 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 9 |
| 8 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 3 |
| 6 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 8 |

**To solve the puzzle:** The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

## India selects Israeli telescopic sights for NEGEV machine guns

**JERUSALEM, PTI:** The Indian Army has selected an Israeli company's telescopic sight to provide a daytime optics solution for its NEGEV machine guns, the firm said on Monday.

The Indian Army chose Israeli company Meprolight's MEPRO X6, a fixed 6x magnification telescopic sight designed for assault rifles, light machine guns and other weapon systems that require a combination of precision, ruggedness and high optical performance, the company said in a statement.

Meprolight will also transfer knowledge, processes and manufacturing capabilities to strengthen the Make in India initiative. Delivery of the sights will be conducted through Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), the statement said. "To support local manufacturing and the Make in India initiative, Meprolight has signed a comprehensive Transfer of Technology (ToT) agreement with RRP Defense, under which the company will transfer the knowledge, processes and manufacturing capabilities required for full production of the MEPRO X6 in India," it added.

## B'desh summons Indian diplomat

**DHAKA, PTI:** Bangladesh on Monday summoned India's Deputy High Commissioner and conveyed its "deep disappointment" over an incident involving an adviser to the Prime Minister at Delhi airport.

Dr Zahed Ur Rahman, the Prime Minister's Adviser on Policy and Strategy Affairs and Information and Broadcasting, was stopped by authorities at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi on Sunday when his name was reportedly flagged during a routine security check.

# Israel won't withdraw from seized Lebanon territory: Katz

### US-Iran deal comes under fire from Israeli ministers, opposition

TEL AVIV, AP/PTI

Israeli political leaders across the spectrum on Monday criticised the interim agreement between the United States and Iran to end the West Asia war, with senior ministers insisting Israel would not be bound by the deal and would retain territory seized during the conflict.

Defence Minister Israel Katz said Israel would not withdraw from territory captured in Lebanon while the interim agreement between Washington and Tehran remains pending. The two sides are expected to meet in Geneva on Friday to sign the deal.

Katz said Israel planned to remain "indefinitely" in areas under its control in Lebanon, as well as in Syria and the Gaza Strip. He also warned that if Iran retaliated against Israel over Israeli strikes in Lebanon, Israel would respond with "great force".

**US President Donald Trump and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced on Monday that the US and Iran have finalised a deal to end the war between them. Here is the timeline of key events**

**US-Iran Conflict: Key timeline**

**Feb 28, 2026** US-Israel strikes kill Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and top commanders.

**Mar 1** Iran launches retaliatory missile attacks, escalating the conflict.

**Mar 6-7** Trump demands Iran's "unconditional surrender"; Tehran rejects it.

**Mar 9** Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei becomes Iran's new Supreme Leader.

**Mar 31** China and Pakistan propose a peace plan.

**Apr 8** US and Iran agree to a two-week ceasefire.

**Apr 11-12** First direct US-Iran talks held in Pakistan; no breakthrough.

**Apr-May** Strait of Hormuz dispute dominates negotiations amid blockades, ship seizures and threats.

**May 24** Trump says a peace deal is largely negotiated.

**May 26 -Jun 11** Fighting resumes with US strikes and Iranian retaliation.

**Jun 15** Trump announces a final agreement to end the war; signing set for June 19 in Switzerland.

**BENJAMIN NETANYAHU**
Israeli prime minister

"The most important thing is that we saved the State of Israel from the threat of nuclear annihilation.

Iran has linked the interim agreement to an end to Israeli attacks on Hezbollah in Lebanon. Over the past two and a half years, Israel has taken control of around 1,000 square kilometres of territory across Gaza, Lebanon and Syria — an area slightly larger than New York City.

The deal also drew strong criticism from key members of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition government.

National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir said the agreement did not bind Israel and failed to guarantee the country's security. "Trump's agreement does not bind us. We are not party to this agreement. It does not safeguard our security," Ben Gvir said, adding that Israel should not withdraw from any territory captured from Hezbollah. Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich called the agreement "bad for Israel" and said the campaign against Iran must continue.

"We will have to continue the campaign to bring down the regime ourselves, using creative means, and ensure that Iran never acquires nuclear weapons," Smotrich said. He also called for intensified military action in Lebanon and for Israel to maintain complete operational freedom against Hezbollah.

Opposition leaders likewise condemned the agreement, though they directed much of their criticism at Netanyahu.

Former prime minister Naftali Bennett, considered a leading contender in the next election, described the deal as a "dangerous turn for Israel's security". "We have a clear strategic plan to collapse the Iranian regime," Bennett said.

Yair Golan, leader of the left-wing Democrats Party, said the deal erased Israel's battlefield gains. "With the stroke of a pen, enormous military achievements — achieved through the courage of our pilots and the sacrifice of our soldiers — have been erased," Golan said.

## US-Iran agreement leaves Netanyahu on the defensive

**NYT NEWS SERVICE**

For Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the war he hoped would cement his legacy — with Israel and the United States jointly confronting Iran — may be ending in a way that undermines it.

The framework agreement announced on Sunday to end the Iran conflict appears to omit several key Israeli demands. While the full text has not been released and Israel was not directly involved in the negotiations, initial details suggest the deal does not address Iran's ballistic missile arsenal or its support for regional allies such as Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Houthis in Yemen.

Crucially for Israel, the agreement leaves major questions about Iran's nuclear programme unresolved. Details of restrictions on Tehran's nuclear activities are either undisclosed or set to be negotiated during a 60-day ceasefire. The future of Iran's stockpile of near-bomb-grade uranium and its ability to continue enriching nuclear fuel remain unclear.

The agreement also comes at a difficult political moment for Netanyahu, who faces re-election within months and is trailing in opinion polls. US President Donald Trump, long viewed as Netanyahu's most valuable international ally, has publicly criticised the Israeli leader several times in recent weeks. Tensions escalated further after Israel struck what it described as a Hezbollah target near Beirut on Sunday, just as Washington was attempting to finalise the agreement with Iran. The strike drew criticism from Trump and deepened disagreements between the two leaders over Israel's freedom to respond to Hezbollah attacks in Lebanon.

According to officials, Israel did not coordinate the operation with the US and only notified the US military shortly before it began.

For critics, the emerging agreement highlights the shortcomings of Netanyahu's long-running strategy towards Iran.

Many Israelis fear the deal could leave unresolved concerns over Iran's nuclear programme and regional influence, while making the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement appear favourable by comparison.

## WORLD AT A GLANCE

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy visits the Dormition Cathedral which was hit by Russian missile and drone strikes in Kyiv on Monday. REUTERS

### Russian barrage kills 11 in Ukraine; renowned religious site damaged

Russia fired hundreds of drones and dozens of missiles at Ukraine's largest cities in a nighttime bombardment that killed at least 11 people and set fire to a renowned religious site, AP/PTI reports from Kyiv.

The attacks on the capital, Kyiv, and the second-largest city, Kharkiv, came after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke separately by phone with US President Donald Trump on Sunday. The exchange suggests Washington has not given up on its diplomatic efforts to stop the fighting that followed Moscow's full-scale invasion of its neighbour in February 2022. The war in Ukraine is also set to feature in talks on Tuesday between G7 leaders at a summit in France. Zelenskyy and Trump are due to attend the gathering, as the Ukrainian leader pushes to keep the war on leaders' minds while the Iran war diverts international attention from Ukraine's plight. "This is how Russia shows the world its intention to continue the war," Zelenskyy said in a post on X, referring to the overnight attack.

### Top US court rejects Tata appeal

The US Supreme Court turned away on Monday a bid by India-based Tata Consultancy Services to overturn a $168 million award won against it by DXC Technology for allegedly stealing trade secrets related to life insurance software, Reuters reports from Washington.

Tata appealed after a lower court upheld a judge's decision to set the award at $56 million in compensatory damages and $112 million in punitive damages to Ashburn, Virginia-based DXC. Tata argued that the damages award could not be justified. DXC's predecessor, Computer Sciences Corp, licensed its software to Transamerica in the 1990s. Its 2019 lawsuit, filed in Dallas, alleged that Tata hired 2,200 Transamerica employees and used their access to CSC's software and knowledge of its proprietary information to build a competing life insurance platform.

Police officers detain a protester opposing the government's decision to ban Palestine Action as a terror organisation, following a Court of Appeal ruling, in London on Monday. REUTERS

### Congo reports more Ebola cases

Congolese authorities have reported one of the highest increases in Ebola cases in a single day, as weak contact tracing, insecurity and funding gaps continue to hinder the response a month after the outbreak was declared, AP/PTI reports from Kinshasa (Congo).

The Congolese Ministry of Health said on Sunday that 72 new cases were reported in a 24-hour period, bringing the total number of confirmed cases to 782. This includes 181 confirmed deaths, after 32 new deaths were confirmed.

However, the number of cases in Congo is believed to be higher because the outbreak was confirmed on May 15, weeks after it was suspected to have begun, and the contact-tracing coverage rate is at 56%, a sharp decrease from last week.

### Norway princess's son jailed for rape

Marius Borg Hoiby, the eldest son of Norway's Crown Princess Mette-Marit, was sentenced to four years in prison on Monday after being convicted of rape, AP/PTI reports from Oslo.

He was found guilty of two of the four rape charges he was facing and acquitted of the other two. Hoiby had been charged with sexually assaulting four women who were asleep or otherwise unable to resist between 2018 and 2024. He also faced other charges for lesser offences, including assault, drug-related crimes and violations of a restraining order. Hoiby had denied the rape allegations but admitted to several of the lesser offences.

Actors Tom Holland and Zendaya pose during a photocall for "Spider-Man: Brand new day" movie in a hotel in Madrid on Monday. AFP


**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE**
**U.R. RAO SATELLITE CENTRE**
**CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP**
**HAL Old Airport Road, Bangalore - 560 017.**
**(Phone: 080 25084156, 4184)**
**CORRIGENDUM - III**

| Sl.No | Description | Details |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Name of work | Contract for Hiring of Shamiyana and other Allied Items for Main Campus, URSC, Vimanapura and ISITE Campus, Marathahalli, Bengaluru |
| 2 | E-Tender Notice | URSC/C&MG/C/M/10/2026-27 dated: 27/04/2026 |
| 3 | Estimated cost put to Tender | ₹ 12.37 Lakhs |
| 4 | Period during which the tender document can be downloaded | Extended upto 16.30 hrs on 22/06/2026 |
| 5 | Last date and time for receipt of tenders | Up to 14.30 hrs. on 25/06/2026 |
| 6 | Due date and time of opening of tenders | After 14.31 hrs on 25/06/2026 |

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: www.isro.gov.in and download the tender documents from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.

Sd/-
Group Director, C&MG, URSC



**BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION**
Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture,
Bommanahalli Zone-2, Bengaluru

**No.: SADH/BSCC/(Z-2)TENDER/01/2026-27 Date: 15.06.2026**

**INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)**
**(Short Term) (Two Cover System)**
**(Through GOK KPP Portal Only)**

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Bommanahalli Zone-2 (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites tenders to implement in accordance with KTPP Rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person / Agencies / Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour Department for maintenance of Parks, Toilets and Borewells. (Standard tender document: KW-1, KW-2, KW-3 & KW-4).

| Sl. No. | Ward No. | Amount (In Lakhs) | Category |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 18, 19, 21, 24, 26, 27, 28, 30, 57, 58, 60, 61, 62, 63, 66, 68, 70, 72, | Minimum Amount: 0.80 to Maximum Amount: 100.63 | Others |
| 2 | 17, 22, 29, 53, 58, 65, 69, 72 | Minimum Amount: 4.95 to Maximum Amount: 67.64 | SC |
| 3 | 25, 64, 71 | Minimum Amount: 1.25 to Maximum Amount: 47.88 | ST |
| 4 | 20, 67 | Minimum Amount: 2.42 to Maximum Amount: 2.86 | CAT-I |
| 5 | 20, 56, 57, 59, 60, 72 | Minimum Amount: 0.75 to Maximum Amount: 40.05 | CAT-II(A) |
| 6 | BTM Constituency | Minimum Amount: 40.00 & Maximum Amount: 60.00 | Others |
| 7 | Bommanahalli Constituency | Amount: 40.00 | Others |
| 8 | Bommanahalli Constituency | Amount: 50.00 | CAT-II(A) |
| | | **Total No. of Works: 51** | |

**Calendar of Events:** **(1)** Date of Notification: **15.06.2026.** **(2)** Tender can be downloaded from: **18.06.2026.** **(3)** Pre bid meeting: **16.06.2026.** **(4)** Tender closing date: **25.06.2026** at **4:30 p.m.** **(5)** Technical bid opening date: **29.06.2026** at **11:00 a.m.** **(6)** Financially bid opening date: After approval of Technical bid. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

**Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Bengaluru South City Corporation, Bommanahalli Zone-2**


# Trump tariff threats shadow G7 summit

### Leaders gather in France amid tensions over trade, Iran and Ukraine

EVIAN-LES-BAINS (FRANCE), REUTERS

US President Donald Trump attends a bilateral meeting with France's President Emmanuel Macron on the sidelines of the G7 summit, in Evian, France on Monday. AFP

The leaders of the Group of Seven nations began arriving at a French lakeside resort on Monday, with relief after the United States reached a preliminary deal to end the Iran war tempered by unease over President Donald Trump's fresh tariff threats.

The preliminary deal with Iran and the steps to follow will be among several issues the leaders will wrestle with during the June 15–17 summit in Evian-les-Bains. They will also seek common ground on the war in Ukraine besides tackling global economic imbalances and critical minerals.

Trump arrives at a time when global leaders are increasingly wary of the United States, even if French officials were glad to have secured his presence after he left last year's G7 summit in Canada early.

Underscoring the tensions, Trump, in an interview with the New York Post before leaving for the summit, warned that he would "have no choice" but to apply 100% tariffs on French wine unless Paris eliminates its digital tax on US tech giants.

Then, in a social media post just before arriving at the summit, he turned to a subject that has been a regular source of tension with centrist European allies: immigration.

"Sadly, if you import people from Third World Countries, you quickly become a Third World Country — And there's not a thing you can do about it," he wrote.

Trump's tariff threats, which came ahead of a summit that serves as the diplomatic culmination of Emmanuel Macron's second and final term, represent a blow for the unpopular French president. He steps down next year.

Macron told French television channel TF1 that France would not yield to Trump's tariff threats, adding: "Tariffs don't do anyone any good, especially tariffs between G7 countries."

## UK arrests Indian man in raid on Russian shadow fleet oil tanker

**LONDON, PTI:** An Indian man was arrested by UK authorities in connection with the alleged violation of Western sanctions on Russia.

The arrest was made during a joint operation between the UK's National Crime Agency (NCA) and the British armed forces to intercept a Russian shadow fleet oil tanker in the English Channel. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer confirmed on Sunday that the vessel SMYRTOS was boarded by Royal Marine Commandos and specially trained law enforcement officers from the NCA in the first UK-led operation of its kind.

"Following the interdiction of a Russian shadow fleet vessel in the early hours of 14 June, a 38-year-old Indian national has been arrested by officers from the National Crime Agency on suspicion of sanctions offences under the Russia regulations," an NCA spokesperson said.

The NCA did not clarify the specific offences for which the Indian national was arrested. "He has been taken into custody where he will be interviewed," the spokesperson said.

**SWEEPING CHANGE**

## UK announces social media ban for under-16s

LONDON, AFP

Children under 16 will be banned from using social media in the UK, Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced on Monday, saying such platforms were making youngsters "unhappy".

Some children's charities welcomed the sweeping change, which is likely to trigger a major fight with US tech giants, but others warned it could make teenagers less safe online.

Starmer, who is likely to face a leadership challenge in the coming weeks, said social media sites were exposing children to content that is "dangerous" and "designed to be addictive".

The ban will "include platforms like Snapchat, TikTok, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook and X" but not messaging services such as WhatsApp, the government said.

Starmer said the upcoming ban was influenced by the experience of Australia, which in December became the first nation to ban people under 16 from social media.

He added during a press conference in Downing Street that he hoped to pass the regulation by late December and for the ban to come into force in spring next year.

He suggested that YouTube Kids, Lego Play and Google Classroom would not be prohibited. The government said in a statement it would also consider overnight curfews and limits on infinite scrolling for minors, and would announce more details in July.

Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese welcomed the move in a post on X, saying: "Social media giants operate across borders. By standing together, we can do more to hold them accountable and keep children safe online."

Canada and France are among other countries considering similar bans, while Indonesia began enforcing its ban on users under 16 in March.

# The dilemma around KV mandating Hindi

SEETHALAKSHMI SURAJ

While there is already considerable frustration among students and parents over CBSE's implementation of the three-language policy for Class 9 students midway through the academic session, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan's (KVS) decision to mandate Hindi as the first language at the R1 level has added another layer of concern.

The academic session for Class 9 has already begun, and students had opted for Hindi or Sanskrit as their second language under the earlier system. In such a situation, introducing a third language poses a challenge, particularly given its late rollout.

The concern becomes greater with KVS mandating Hindi as R1, English as R2, and offering a choice between Sanskrit and the state's regional language only for R3. For many students who had chosen Sanskrit and were mentally preparing to continue with it through the board years, this significantly changes the academic landscape.

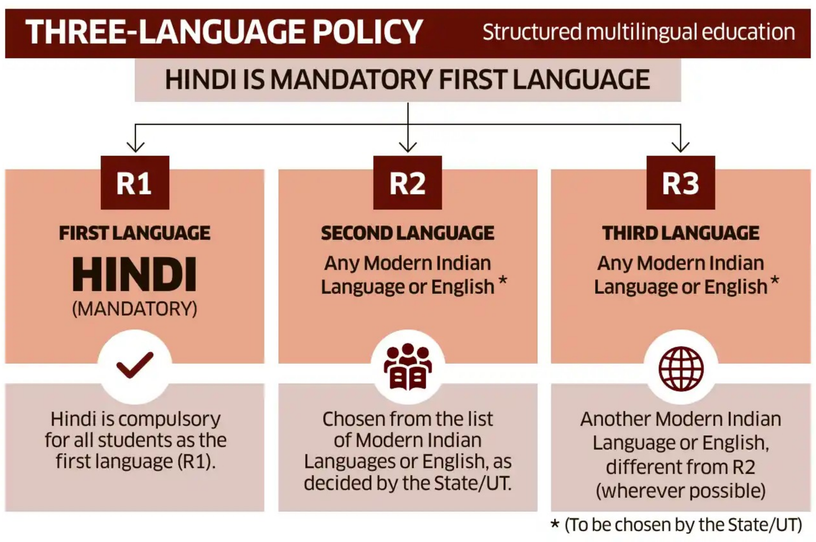
### The debate over Hindi as R1

Several parents point out that placing Hindi at the R1 level is not merely about studying an additional language. R1 is generally perceived as having higher levels of proficiency, assessment, and academic expectations than R2 or R3.

The KVS circular communicating this structure was issued on May 29, 2026, giving parents and students only a short window to make their choices. However, the choices themselves are limited, with Hindi and English already assigned to R1 and R2, respectively.

One parent questioned the timing of the rollout. "Why introduce such a major change after the academic year has already begun? And if it has to be implemented, why not allow students the flexibility to choose which language they want at each level?" the parent asked.

Another parent questioned the rationale behind making Hindi mandatory as R1. "The stated goal of the NEP is multilingualism and national integration through language learning. But if Hindi is compulsory for all students irrespective of their state, does that objective really get fulfilled?" the parent asked. "Students from the KVs of the north continue to study Hindi, while students from the south are also required to study Hindi. The policy appears to expand Hindi learning, but not necessarily linguistic diversity."


THREE-LANGUAGE POLICY
Structured multilingual education
HINDI IS MANDATORY FIRST LANGUAGE
R1
FIRST LANGUAGE
HINDI
(MANDATORY)
Hindi is compulsory for all students as the first language (R1).
R2
SECOND LANGUAGE
Any Modern Indian Language or English *
Chosen from the list of Modern Indian Languages or English, as decided by the State/UT.
R3
THIRD LANGUAGE
Any Modern Indian Language or English *
Another Modern Indian Language or English, different from R2 (wherever possible)
* (To be chosen by the State/UT)

### Educators raise red flags

Educators, on the other hand, point to two major concerns. One is the stipulation that Sanskrit and regional languages can be offered only if at least 15 students opt for them, which they fear could discourage enrolment and gradually marginalise these languages. The other is the limited flexibility available to students, with teachers questioning whether a pre-determined R1-R2 structure aligns with the spirit of choice envisioned under NEP 2020. An ex-Kendriya Vidyalaya teacher, while supporting the broader objectives of the three-language policy, expressed concerns about its practical implications.

"If Sanskrit is no longer treated as a full-fledged examination subject, students may gradually lose interest in pursuing it seriously. Sanskrit has traditionally been viewed as a student-friendly and scoring subject. A decline in its uptake could also affect students' engagement with classical Indian literature, scriptures, and knowledge traditions," he observed.

The teacher further noted that a sustained reduction in Sanskrit enrollment could eventually affect the demand for Sanskrit teachers within the system.

### Students feel the pressure

Students, the primary stakeholders in this transition, yet perhaps the least consulted, have major concerns.

Several students describe the uncertainty surrounding the language policy as overwhelming. One student said the frequent changes feel "like a nightmare," adding that it is becoming increasingly difficult to cope with the sudden introduction of new requirements alongside the revised syllabus and grading pattern introduced under the NEP.

Another student pointed out that adapting to the NEP framework has already required significant adjustments over the past year. "Because of the changes in the syllabus and grading pattern, many of us are already attending tuition classes for Science, Mathematics and Social Studies," the student said. The student added that they had already purchased Sanskrit textbooks and begun tuition classes for the subject. "If Hindi is now implemented as R1, it means finding time for yet another subject in an already packed schedule. It is not just about learning a language; it is about fitting it into a timetable that is already full."

### A proposed middle path

Given all these concerns, a possible middle ground suggested by educators, parents, and students is to make English the mandatory R1 language, offer a choice between Hindi and Sanskrit for R2, and between the remaining language and the state's regional language for R3. They argue that this model would meet the requirements of the three-language policy while preserving student choice and remaining practical for KVS to implement.

# Answering questions on climate change

**Making students see the lived experiences of the vulnerable population can be an effective method to help them navigate the crucial timeline, writes**

**Kunal Sharma**

We live in an era of extreme planetary disruptions, and for those watching this unfolding breakdown, a deep anxiety has taken root. Yet life continues, and so does education. Students arrive in classrooms, notebooks open. Teachers must still teach. The responsibility, if anything, has grown heavier.

But what does a teacher say to young people today?

Concepts of sustainability, resilience, or well-being are not abstract lectures. They are critical for those who will live through a future that one can only imagine, probably the first generation experiencing a new state of normal on a planet where climate disruptions are the norm and not a once-in-a-century event.

And herein lies the teacher's dilemma. How do you inspire hope without denying the scale of the crisis? How do you overcome and explain your own limited knowledge of this complex problem without overwhelming children with despair? And how do you respond to curious minds rarely content with numbers?

Fed by endless sources of information beyond the classroom, students are listening to climate projections, reports of biodiversity collapse, and news of sea-level rise, and then they ask probing questions. The responses are mostly damning.

At such moments, data points feel empty. One can recite figures on global warming thresholds or species extinction rates, but many a time these figures do not come with solutions, only a sense of finality. The truth is that teachers themselves carry the same fears, the same uncertainties, the same grief. To deny that feels dishonest and to admit risks intensifying despair. One learns then to stand alongside students not as a guide but as a fellow traveller, uncertain but committed.

Between 2026 and 2040, the world is likely to change drastically, not only through the familiar dimensions of climate change but also through cascading crises of land degradation, water scarcity, pollution, and widening inequality. These realities in motion are already pressing upon us. To identify and discuss is not to frighten students but to bring into conversation what they, too, intuitively know.

A favourite academic word often used in response to a crisis is adaptation. To students, it may sometimes sound like passive surrender. But adaptation, when discussed honestly, is action, not defeat. It is the capacity to choose to live differently and to create communities that endure despite disruption.

This conversation carries a particular weight in India. On the one hand, our current trajectory of consumption and growth is increasingly ecologically unsustainable. On the other hand, many live in poverty and without reliable access to basic needs such as energy, housing, and healthcare. For one to simply declare that growth must stop is unjust, and to demand unlimited growth is catastrophic.

This is the paradox our students must wrestle with. Development cannot follow the old models of consumption-heavy industrialisation imported from elsewhere. At the same time, pathways for justice and dignity must remain open. And teaching this paradox is not easy, but it is necessary.

### Adapting to the new norm

Perhaps the idea of a Litmus Self can offer hints. Humans respond most intensely to what touches them personally. In fact, our skin is the boundary that instantly registers pain, comfort, danger, or relief. Imagine the ramifications if the self could function like a litmus paper, acutely sensitive to environmental changes.

We would then be able to train ourselves and our students to stretch this sensitivity outward. Every global change would then be felt as a change to the self. Like a reptile that reacts instantly to shifts in its environment, the Litmus Self would be attuned to the fragility of life

This requires a widening of identity, from "I, the individual" or "I, the citizen of a nation" to "I, the planetary citizen", a caretaker of the global commons that is our planet. In this framing, the melting of a glacier, the plastic choking a river and a forest burning are not distant events. They are registered in the self as if happening on one's own skin.

From such recognition comes the impulse to act. Sometimes the act is small and personal, like changing consumption habits or rethinking mobility. Sometimes it is collective and confrontational, like challenging corporations, influencing government, or reshaping institutions. And sometimes it is about expanding a sense of kinship from a deeply personal loved one to the living earth, which is, in many ways, the most primal form of kinship one has.

But always, it arises from the realisation that harm anywhere is harm everywhere. Growth cannot continue at the expense of the planet's future and of all the creatures that live in it.

The Litmus Self is both a sensor and an actor. It feels, and it responds. It collapses the distance between global crisis and personal action and compels us to act as it affects us personally. This is what we must nurture in our students, not merely knowledge of climate science but a recognition that the Earth's fate is tied to their own.

Teaching the Litmus Self begins with real stories — of farmers who lose crops to unseasonal rains, of families displaced by coastal erosion, of students themselves struggling through heatwaves or floods, and of the millions who are currently trudging through one of the most gruelling summers the nation has seen. These are experiences that reveal the porous boundary between the self and the world.

This requires classrooms to become spaces where fear can be voiced, grief acknowledged, and creativity cultivated. Teachers cannot pretend to have all the answers. But they can show that it is possible to face daunting realities without paralysis.

Their job is to explore the delicate balance between despair and hope. Too much despair, and students will give up before they begin. Too much hope, and they are unprepared for what is to come. The task is to walk the narrow path between, never denying the truth but never abandoning the possibility of change.

One cannot pretend that this is easy. Teachers, too, carry their own griefs and their own doubts. We, too, ask if our efforts matter, if our words reach beyond the classroom walls. Yet we return again and again to the Litmus Self, which is porous and sensitive, refusing the comfort of distance from a crisis and insisting on connections. If we can nurture such selves in our students and in ourselves, then perhaps teaching the unteachable is not impossible after all. That, perhaps, is lesson enough.

*(The author is an assistant professor at a Bengaluru-based university)*

## BULLETIN BOARD

### Admissions open

The Department of Electronic Media at Bangalore University has invited applications for admission to its M.Sc. Electronic Media, M.Sc. Film Making, and M.Sc. Graphics & Animation programmes for the 2026–27 academic year. Candidates with any bachelor's degree and a minimum of 50% aggregate marks are eligible to apply. The programmes offer hands-on training in television news production, reporting, anchoring, cinematography, film direction, film editing, graphic design, 2D & 3D animation, VFX/SFX, UI & UX, AI, digital media, and sound design. The department highlights industry interaction, practical learning, student support, and placement assistance, with access to modern studios, cinematography and sound production facilities, computer labs, library, hostel, and scholarships. Interested candidates can register online or contact the Department of Electronic Media at Old Pariksha Bhavan, Jnana Bharathi Campus, Bangalore University, Bengaluru. For enquiries: Email multimedia@bub.ernet.in / call 9006668558, 9535439717, 9886534453, 9741156807

### JEE Mains: Physics online teaching

Crack Physics is hiring a JEE Main Physics online teaching intern who can work from home. Students with knowledge of English Proficiency (Spoken), Online Teaching, and Physics can apply by July 11. The stipend is Rs 18,000-36,000 /month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/652907.

### Mathematics expert

Averon Labs is hiring a mathematics Subject Matter Expert intern who can work from home. Students proficient in English who can use AI tools and teach mathematics can apply by July 11. The stipend is Rs 11,000 - 14,000/ month. Apply at: internshala.

# When does 'follow your passion' advice really work?

REJI VARGHESE

"Follow your passion" is something you hear very often at graduations, in motivational talks and in social media posts. It sounds inspiring, but for many young people, it can be risky advice.

Best-selling author and Stern School of Business Professor Scott Galloway had argued in a 2024 Time Magazine article that this advice mainly works for people who already have money, stability, or strong support systems.

Research by Stanford psychologist William Damon shows that only about 20% of people aged under 26 can clearly identify a passion that can guide a long-term career path. Even when someone thinks they know their passion, especially in fields like music, art, sport, theatre and dance, the path to success and financial stability is uncertain.

According to Galloway, in fields like acting and music, unemployment rates are above 90%, which means that only a small percentage of people actually make a living from their craft. Vocalist Sunitha Sarathy says she understood this fact very early.

"Music was always my passion from a very young age. But I was also realistic about how unpredictable the industry can be, so I made sure I had some financial stability too. Passion mattered deeply, but so did discipline, consistency, and being practical about survival."

Award-winning visual artist Parvathi Nayar puts it bluntly. "Yes, follow your passion is good advice," she says, "but I would always add 'interrogate that passion' so you understand the nature of that passion very clearly without rose-tinted glasses." "Unless you have personal wealth, a financially stable partner, or instant success, most artists balance creative work with what we used to call 'money work' at university. Something that generates income," she adds.

### What the data suggests

A 2014 study by media and tech research firm MIDiA Consulting found that 1% of superstars accounted for a massive 77% of total recorded music income, both physical and digital.

Statistics from SAG-AFTRA (Screen Actors Guild – American Federation of Television and Radio Artists), a major American labour union representing over 160,000 film and television actors, journalists, and media professionals, show that only 2% of actors make a living from their craft, and media professionals show that only 2% of actors make a living from their craft. The vast majority of working actors do not even reach the earnings threshold required to qualify for the union's health insurance.

A 2018 survey of visual artists conducted by The Creative Independent found that 48.7% reported that 10% or less of their total annual income came from their art. It also found that only 17% of artists earned between 75% and 100% of their income from art. Sunitha says she has seen this throughout the industry. "I know many artists who balance creative work with professions like IT, banking, teaching, or corporate jobs," she says. "For many of them, music is not just a hobby or a passion. It becomes a second career alongside their primary source of stability."

Even in a cricket-crazy country like India, the odds of someone earning a living from the sport are extremely low. India has roughly 13 million youth cricketers training in structured systems, but only about 2,500–3,000 players hold sustainable professional domestic contracts. That means barely 0.02% ever make a stable living from cricket. For a child starting at a local academy, the odds of making it are far below 1%.

### Build capability instead of passion

Galloway argues that young people should focus less on chasing passion initially and more on building capability. He advises youngsters to develop skills, build competence, and learn how industries function. Very few engineers,

AI-GENERATED IMAGE, FOR REPRESENATION ONLY

doctors, entrepreneurs, musicians, or filmmakers begin their careers fully certain of themselves. Confidence usually arrives after years of repetition, setbacks, small victories, and gradual improvement.

Author and professor Cal Newport's book "*So Good They Can't Ignore You*" challenges what he calls the "passion hypothesis." He points to one of the most famous advocates of the "follow your passion" idea, Steve Jobs. In his 2005 Stanford commencement speech, which later went viral, Jobs told graduates to "find what you love" and build a career around it. But Newport argues that Jobs's own life contradicts his advice. Before Apple, Jobs was interested in all sorts of things — meditation, calligraphy, eastern mysticism, fruitarian diets, even walking around barefoot. His true calling turned out to be none of these things. Jobs' greatest talent was his ability to synthesise disconnected fields, specifically the arts, design, and computing, to create highly intuitive consumer products, a far cry from meditation and eastern mysticism.

Youngsters often do not see that longevity matters more than virality. A song getting millions of views is not the same as building a sustainable 25-year career. A viral reel is not the same as artistic mastery.

"A lot of people today want instant validation," says Sunitha. "But going viral and sustaining a long-term career are two very different things."Parvathi believes social media often distorts how success itself is perceived. "People post successes on social media. Hardly anyone posts failures," she says. "Browsing through social media can create a false picture of how everyone else is doing."

### A better career compass

Passion matters enormously, but passion alone is rarely enough to build a stable life. Galloway suggests that young professionals and students should consider the following:

- **Expose oneself to a wide range of influences:** Most people don't discover what they're good at overnight. Trying your hand at different fields can help you understand where your strengths lie.
- **Invest in capability:** Skills that are tested and developed create a foundation for passion to grow.
- **Treat passion as an outcome, not a starting point:** Research shows that passion grows from building capability and mastery, not the other way around.
- **Develop a versatile skill set:** In today's rapidly changing job market, where AI is causing seismic shifts, it's wiser to build a versatile skill set rather than limiting oneself to a single passion.

"We are entering a major shift with AI and the way jobs and opportunities are changing. Over the next few years, the very idea of work will evolve, so a versatile skill set and financial awareness are absolutely essential. You cannot rely only on passion if you want longevity in a creative career," Sunitha says.

Perhaps the best approach is not to choose between passion and practicality, but to learn how to balance the two.

"Explore widely when you are young. Try different things. Build real skills. Understand money. Accept uncertainty. Stay flexible enough to evolve. And don't worry about life's calling to arrive fully formed at eighteen. For most people, it doesn't," says Parvathi.

*(The author is a Chennai-based entrepreneur)*

# B'luru-based Sarvam turns unicorn with $234-mn funding

## HCLTech invests Rs 1,427 cr in AI firm

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru-based full-stack sovereign AI company is now the country's newest AI unicorn with the recent $234-million funding. This recent fundraising is the first close of its $300 million Series B at a post-money valuation of $1.5 billion.

IT services firm HCLTech has acquired 10.46% stake in the startup for Rs 1,427.25 crore. Bessemer Venture Partners also invested in the round, apart from existing investors Khosla Ventures and Peak XV Partners.

The investment will fund Sarvam's continued research on training its next frontier model for agentic, coding and cybersecurity use-cases,

as well as access to compute at scale to expand its forward-deployed motion across key verticals.

"We are clear that research-led innovation to create AI that works at India's scale is a very large opportunity. That means models that understand our voices, read our documents and serve intelligence at a cost every enterprise and government can afford. Building on this template, we are innovating on a full-stack offering for enterprises to own and operate their own sovereign AI," said Pratyush Kumar, Co-Founder of Sarvam.

The investment will enable HCLTech to develop industry and client-specific language models and AI solutions for its global client base, delivering compelling price-to-performance outcomes and enabling differentiated enterprise AI solutions across industries.

C Vijayakumar, CEO and MD of HCLTech, said, "By bringing together Sarvam's research in AI models with HCLTech's global presence, we are creating a differentiated full-stack AI platform for enterprises and governments, strengthening our ability to deliver secure, scalable and responsible AI solutions."

Founded in 2023, Sarvam's revenue stood at Rs 45.10 crore in FY26. Sarvam partners with leading Indian enterprises, including SBI Life, LIC, IDFC, Tata Capital and CRED.

# Wholesale price inflation surges to 9.68% in May

## US-Iran peace deal may help cool price rise, say analysts

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

**SEGMENT TRENDS**

- Wholesale price rise in May sharpest in over **3.5 years**
- **Fuel** and **food** key drivers of **WPI** during April-May
- Hardening in inflationary pressure seen in manufactured products segment

India's wholesale price inflation spiked to 9.68% in May, driven by a surge in prices of fuel, food items and selected manufactured products, as per data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Monday.

The wholesale price rise in May was the sharpest in over three-and-half years. The Wholesale Price Index-based (WPI) inflation stood at 8.3% in April and 3.88% in March. The May WPI data is the first under the revised series with the 2022-23 base year.

Fuel and food were the key drivers of the wholesale price inflation during April-May. The wholesale fuel and power inflation soared to 30.33% in May. Crude petroleum price was 61.51% higher in May, compared with the same month last year.

The fuel and power segment has 14.1% weight in the new WPI series. Crude petroleum and natural gas have been shifted to the 'fuel and power' category under the 2022-23 series from 'primary articles' category under the old series, which was based on 2011-12.

"While there has been an uptick in inflation across all major groups, the increase is notable for fuel & power and manufactured goods. This reflects the impact of the West Asia crisis on wholesale prices," said Rajani Sinha, Chief Economist, CareEdge Ratings.

Food prices have been on an increasing trend since November 2025 and reached a 16-month high at 3.6% in May.

There was also continued hardening in inflationary pressure in the manufactured products segment, which rose to 7.5% in May from 6.7% the previous month.

"The impact of high global crude prices was evident in the manufactured products as well. While several sub-groups witnessed inflation, basic metals, chemicals, and textiles exerted an upward pressure," said Megha Arora, Director, India Ratings and Research.

High global metal prices, and overall higher cost of imported inputs are likely to keep inflation in this segment high in the coming months, Arora added.

# Rupee rises 60 paise to settle at 94.58 against US dollar

**MUMBAI, PTI:** The rupee strengthened 60 paise to settle at 94.58 against the US dollar on Monday as global crude oil prices dropped sharply after US President Donald Trump announced that the US and Iran finalised a deal to end the war.

"The Indian rupee rose for the second consecutive day, leading to a sharp rally in global risk assets and a fall in global crude oil prices. A decline in the US dollar and US treasury yields, too, favoured the rupee," Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Mirae Asset ShareKhan, said.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 99.65, down 0.20%.

Sensex surged 1,126.72 points or 1.49%, to close at 76,654.67. The Nifty rose sharply by 231 points or 0.98%, to settle at 23,853.90.

# Vedanta's four demerged entities commence trading on BSE, NSE

## Chairman terms listing a start of new chapter for group

MUMBAI, DHNS

In one of the most-significant corporate restructuring exercises undertaken by an Indian conglomerate in recent years, the Anil Agarwal-led Vedanta Group on Monday listed four newly-demerged companies on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and National Stock Exchange (NSE), creating a portfolio of focused businesses operating in sectors central to India's industrial and economic transformation.

The development comes at a time when India is rapidly expanding its manufacturing base, infrastructure network and energy capacity, resulting in rising demand for strategic minerals, metals, hydrocarbons and power.

Besides the already listed Vedanta Ltd, the group's four newly-created entities — Vedanta Aluminium Ltd (VAML), Vedanta Oil & Gas Ltd (VOGL), Vedanta Power Ltd and Vedanta Iron & Steel Ltd (VISL) — commenced trading on the stock exchanges on Monday.

The restructuring aims to create independent, sector-focused companies with greater operational flexibility and sharper business focus, while unlocking value for shareholders. Together, the companies are expected to play a key role in supporting India's ambitions in infrastructure development, energy security, manufacturing growth, critical minerals and the broader vision of Viksit Bharat.

**Vedanta Group Chairman Anil Agarwal (left) and NSE CEO Ashishkumar Chauhan during the NSE closing bell ceremony, marking the listing of the group's four newly demerged companies on the stock exchanges, in Mumbai on Monday.** PTI

Describing the occasion as a landmark moment, Vedanta Group Chairman Anil Agarwal said the listing marked the beginning of a new chapter for the conglomerate.

"Today is a historic day for Vedanta and a deeply emotional one for me. Twenty-four years ago, Vedanta became the first Indian company to list on the London Stock Exchange and later entered the FTSE-100. The seed we sowed then has grown into a vast banyan tree, and the saplings nurtured under it are now ready to become giants in key sectors and contribute significantly to India's rapid growth," Agarwal said.

"The next stage of growth is being unveiled here in Mumbai, the city where my own business journey began. But the next chapter of Vedanta's growth cannot be written by us alone. It will require the trust of shareholders, the support of the government and the aspirations of 1.5 billion Indians," he added.

The listing comes against the backdrop of India's emergence as one of the world's fastest-growing major economies.

The four new companies will trade alongside Vedanta Ltd, the group's flagship entity anchored by Hindustan Zinc and a globally significant portfolio of critical mineral assets.

# USTR to visit India next week for final touches to trade deal

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer (in pic) is scheduled to visit New Delhi next week to give "final touches" to the first tranche of the proposed bilateral trade agreement (BTA) between the two countries, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said on Monday.

Greer is scheduled to arrive in New Delhi on June 22. He will hold talks with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on June 23-24.

"Our expectation is that discussions will be centred around giving final touches to the framework deal," Agrawal said. He added that the discussion would also cover the larger BTA.

The visit follows rounds of chief negotiator-level talks held in the past two months. An Indian team led by chief negotiator Darpan Jain visited Washington DC from April 20-23 for the talks. This was followed by a visit of the US team led by its chief negotiator, Brendan Lynch, to New Delhi from June 1-4.

# US-Iran de-escalation promises deal closures for IT firms

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

If the US-Iran deal holds, it is expected to bring a sigh of relief for both startups and Indian IT services firms, as the latter were stuck in 'wait and watch' mode for many deal closures. Industry watchers said investor sentiment was already shaky in 2026 — VCs were sitting on dry powder, waiting for clarity. CEOs of top IT services firms had said during the companies' Q4 FY26 earnings conferences that they do see slower decision-making in some pockets.

Also, this is likely to bring capital inflows into startups as, for months, founders have been navigating a brutal macroeconomic environment. The country's startups raised $11.7 billion in FY26, an 18% decline from $14.3 billion in FY25, according to Tracxn data. "This marks a pivotal turning-point for the country's tech and startup ecosystem. Crude prices hovering above $110 per barrel created severe inflationary pressure. This pushed up operational costs, weakened the rupee, and directly squeezed startup unit economics. Founders shifted into survival mode, focusing on capital preservation rather than aggressive growth," Sarvam Goel, Founder of Pocketful, said.

The new peace deal, if it happens, will effectively remove this macro-overhang. As global energy prices normalise and forex headwinds ease, the artificial ceiling on startup margins will lift up.

This geopolitical stabilisation clears a wide runway for deeper institutional capital flows into Indian tech, Goel added. For firms, the impact is positive, but indirect. It may help because global clients, especially in the US and Europe, become slightly more comfortable approving discretionary tech spending when energy prices, inflation, and geopolitical uncertainties ease. But firms will still face pressure from AI-led pricing changes, cautious enterprise budgets, visa issues, and slower decision cycles, said Sunil Kharbandha, Co-founder and COO, Trezix.

India's tech sector is still expected to grow, with Nasscom-linked reporting projecting FY26 tech revenue around $315 billion, about 6.1% growth, driven by AI, GCCs and ER&D.

# Razorpay files confidential IPO papers

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** Fintech firm Razorpay has confidentially submitted draft documents to the markets regulator for an IPO. People familiar with the matter pegged the issue size at Rs 5,000–6,000 crore.

In a public notice on Monday, the company said it has filed "the pre-filed draft red herring prospectus with Sebi and the stock exchanges... in relation to the proposed IPO of its equity shares on the main-board of the stock exchanges".

The company did not disclose the size of the proposed issue.

The final issue size, valuation and timing of the IPO remain subject to regulatory approvals, market conditions and other considerations.


**KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION**
No. 16 C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagara, Bengaluru-560052. Phone: 080-22268677/78/79 Fax: 080-22268667
Email: kerc-ka@nic.in Website: https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in

No. KREC/KEDC/2026-27/2151 Date:15.06.2026

**NOTICE**

**Sub: Draft Karnataka Electricity Distribution Code (KEDC), (First Amendment), 2026.**

**Ref.: KERC/KEDC/2026-27/2080, Dated: 04.06.2026**

The draft Regulations on the above subject was published in the Official Gazette of Karnataka on 11.06.2026 and the same is also made available on the on KERC's Website **https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in.**

The Interested persons may file their written comments/views/suggestions/objections if any, on the above drafts to the Secretary, KERC on or before **24.06.2026.**

**Sd/- Secretary**
**For Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission**

DIPR/CP/YC/1163/2026-27

**KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD**
**3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.**

**Tender Notification**
**(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)**

Karnataka Housing Board invite tender from the eligible Pre qualified contractors & willing to Pre qualify in Karnataka Housing Board through Karnataka public procurement portal for below mentioned work.

Interior, furniture and other basic development works to Cauvery IT Cell at 4th Floor, Sub-Register Office, Gandhinagara, KG Road, Bengaluru. **Work Indent No:** Tender Reference Number: KHB/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT 758 & IFT No. 25/2026-27, Dated: 12.06.2026. **Amount put to tender** : Rs. 1,02,40,260/-

**Last date for submission of bid: 29.06.2026 up to 4 PM**

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511, Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

**Sd/- Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru**

DIPR/CP/1160/AKAR/2026-27

**Form No.18**
**Notice for appearance in Appeals Order 41 Rule 14 CPC, and Rules 1,2,4 and 11 of Chapter IV Karnataka High Court Rules**
**IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU**

BETWEEN **MFA No. 3581/2022 (RES/DB)**

**STATE OF KARNATAKA**
By Competent Authority, Assistant Commissioner, Enforcement Cell, Bangalore Urban District, Deputy Commissioner Office, Kandaya Bhavana, K.G Road, Bengaluru-560009

By SRI. VEERESH R. BUDIHAL ADVOCATE

Vs

Respondent/s

1. **DHARSHANIKA FOUNDATION**
R/by Sri N V Krishnamurthy, S/o Venkannachar, No 328 15th C Cross, 6th E Main, Mahalakshmi Layout, Bengaluru-86 And Others

Appeal From the Judgement/Award/Order passed on **10.11.2021** in MISC.NO.729/2009 ON THE FILE OF THE XCI ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AND SPECIAL JUDGE FOR KPIDFE CASES BENGALURU CCH-92

**To: R5 AND R7**

5. **SRI DHANARAJ**
S/o Late Challappa, No.17, 8th Main, Raghavendra Block, 50 Feet Road, BSK III Stage, Bengaluru-70

7. **BS SHANTHA KUMAR**
S/o Late BM Shivalingegowda, Aged About 51 Years, R/at No.19, 2nd Main Bhavaninagar, Railway Layout, II Phase, Vidhyaniketan School Back Gate, Mallathahally, Bengaluru-560056

Whereas the aforementioned Appeal preferred has been registered by this Court

NOTICE IS HEREBY given to you to appear in this Court in person or through an Advocate duly instructed or through some one authorized by law to act for you in this case on **03/07/2026** at **10.30 a.m.,** in case you intend to contest the appeal. If you fail so to appear, the appeal will be dealt with, heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this court on 02nd DAY OF JUNE 2026.

**BY ORDER OF THE COURT**
**Sd/- Assistant Registrar,** High Court of Karnataka,Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/1169/CCL/2026-27

**KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION**
No. 16 C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagara, Bengaluru-560052. Phone: 080-22268677/78/79 Fax: 080-22268667
Email: kerc-ka@nic.in Website: https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in

No. KREC/F-32/V-27/2026-27/2133 Date:15.06.2026

**NOTICE**

**Sub: Draft Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (Connectivity and general Network Access to the Intra-State Transmission and State Distribution System) Regulations, 2026.**

The draft Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (Connectivity and general Network Access to the Intra-State Transmission and State Distribution System) Regulations, 2026, is published in the State Gazette on 11.06.2026. A copy of the draft is made available on KERC's Website **https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Interested persons may file their written objections / suggestions / views, if any, on the draft Regulations, to the Secretary, KERC, within 30 days from the date of publication in the Gazette.

**Sd/- Secretary**
**For Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission**

DIPR/CP/YC/1162/2026-27

**BELAGAVI SMART CITY LIMITED (BSCL)**
1st Floor, BUDA Office, Ashok Nagar, Belagavi - 590016.
Phone No: 0831-2461352 / 2474166
E-mail : bscltd16@gmail.com, Website : www.bscl.in

**No.: BSCL/Admin/Notification/2026-27/152 Date: 15.06.2026**

**RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION**

Managing Director, Belagavi Smart City Limited, Belagavi (CITIIS 2.0 Project) called applications on contract basis for the below mentioned post.

1. **Project Coordinator - 01 Post**
2. **Environmental & Social Safeguards Nodal Officer - 01 Post**
3. **Public Engagement Officer - 01 Post**

For further details, check our official website: **www.bscl.in**

Last date for receipt of application is **01.07.2026 upto 5.30 p.m.**

**Managing Director**
**Belagavi Smart City Limited**
**Belagavi**

DIPR/Belagavi/434/Adverto/2026-27

**SRI JAYADEVA INSTITUTE OF CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES & RESEARCH**
(Govt. of Karnataka Regd. Autonomous & NABH Accredited Institute)
Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore – 560069. Ph. / Fax: 080 22977278
E-mail: director@jayadevacardiology.com Website: www.jayadevacardiology.com

**Ref. No.: SJICR/EST(1)/25/2026-27 DATE: 15.06.2026**

**CORRIGENDUM**

The names of the Faculties appointed under the Notification No. SJICR/EST(1)/25/2026-27, Dated: 09.06.2026 shall appear in the common seniority list cadrewise and shall be promoted & posted seniority wise against the availabe vacancy in different branches of Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences & Research.

**Sd/-,**
**Director**

DIPR/CP/LC/1156/2026-27

**INSTITUTE OF NEPHRO-UROLOGY**
**(Government of Karnataka-Autonomous Institute-Regd. No.1052/03-04)**
Victoria Hospital Campus, Bengaluru-02. e-Mail: nephrourology.institute@gmail.com
Website: www.nephrourology.karnataka.gov.in

No: INU/TND/ADMN/PROC/18/2026 Date:15.06.2026

**NOTIFICATION**

Institute of Nephro-Urology, Victoria Hospital Campus, Bengaluru-02 invites tenders from the eligible tenderers through the Electronic Tenders for the following subjects.

1. Providing Outsourced Laundry Services at INU (Call-III).
2. Procurement of Adjustable Heavy Duty Racks for Main Store & Medical Record Department.
   Last Date For Online Submission of Tender is **22.06.2026 at 5.30 P.M**
1. Procurement of Consumables and Reagents for RTPCR LAB (INU).
   Last Date For Online Submission of Tender is **29.06.2026 at 5.30 P.M**
1. Procurement of CATH Lab Items - 2026-27.
   Last Date For Online Submission of Tender is **14.07.2026 at 5.30 P.M**
   For any further details please log on to: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

**Note:** For any further information and announcements regarding this tender please keep on watching our website i.e., **https://nephrourology.karnataka.gov.in/**

**Sd/- Director, Institute of Nephro-Urology, Bengaluru**

**BANNERGHATTA BIOLOGICAL PARK**
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BANNERGHATTA BIOLOGICAL PARK, BENGALURU - 83.**
Phone: 080-29776466 / 29776467 E-mail: ed@bannerughattabiopark.org

**No: A3/BBP/FD/E-bidding-01/2026-27 Date: 09-06-2026**

**NOTIFICATION**

The Deputy Director, Bannerghatta Biological Park, Bengaluru, a unit of the Zoo Authority of Karnataka (ZAK), herein after referred as Tender Inviting Authority, has invites e-Bid for competitive Rate of Interest for placing surplus funds of Bannerghatta Biological Park, Bengaluru from Nationalized Banks in Fixed Deposits (Non-Callable), whose Branch is in Bengaluru Limits only.

Detailed E-Bid documents may be downloaded from GOK Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Last Date and Time for Submitted of Queries on **17-06-2026 upto 3.00 PM.** Date and Time to Confirm Participation of Interest in Auction on **18-06-2026 upto 3.00 PM.** Evaluation: **20-06-2026 from 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM.** Live Bidding: **Commences at 10.30 AM and Concludes at 1.00 PM on 23-06-2026.**

**Sd/-**
**Deputy Director**

DIPR/CP/1164/Adverto/2026-27

**KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED**
**(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)**

**No:506/BGM/SEE/C/P/AEE(C)/26-27/1215-24 Date:12.06.2026**

**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION**
**(Through KPP Portal Only)**

KPTCL invites bids for Capital Civil works coming under the jurisdiction of Superintending Engineer(Elecl), Projects Circle, KPTCL, Belagavi.

The detailed notifications regarding the enquiry in the KPP Portal process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karanataka.gov.in** on Hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' or **https://kppp.karanataka.gov.in on or after 5:30 Hrs. on 16.06.2026.** More details can be obtained from office of the undersigned during the office hours.

**Sd/- Superintending Engineer(Ele), Projects Circle, KPTCL, Nehrunagar, Belagavi.**

# Rules under nuclear law likely before Parl session

## Minister says talks held with stakeholders on SHANTI Act

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

**PRIVATE PLAYERS**

- Private sector entry into nuclear domain set to open
- New rules to clarify liability regime
- Govt sets 100 GW nuclear target by 2047
- Nearly half of future nuclear capacity expected from private firms

The rules under the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Act could be out before the monsoon session of Parliament, setting the stage for private sector entry into the closely guarded nuclear domain, Union Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh said on Monday.

Jitendra Singh

The Union minister said extensive consultations were held with stakeholders, including private companies, before finalising the rules that are expected to provide clarity on contentious aspects, including the liability regime.

"Rules under the SHANTI Act are to be released before the monsoon season. We have been talking to stakeholders. A US nuclear delegation visited us recently and shared their suggestions as well," Singh said.

Last December, the Union government enacted the new legislation replacing two existing ones — the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, and the Civil Liability to Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 — that currently govern the nuclear sector. The objective is to open up the sector to private firms.

The detailed rules under the SHANTI Act, 2025, are expected to lay down the exact "how-to" blueprint for shifting India's nuclear sector from a government monopoly into a regulated private market.

Singh said it would be wrong to assume that opening up the sector would benefit only large industrial houses, as start-ups could also take advantage of small modular reactors of less than 200 MW or 100 MW units, with liability capped for such players.

The government has set targets of achieving 22 GW of nuclear energy by 2032, 47 GW by 2037, 67 GW by 2042 and 100 GW by 2047, contributing nearly 10% of India's total energy needs. Out of the 100 GW, nearly half is expected from the private sector.

# NCPI's rise from naught to national platform

## Party's Howrah address mentions no political link, only custodians' résumés

KOLKATA, DHNS

**THE BACKGROUND**

- The NCPI registered with the ECI in January 2023
- Ended FY 23 with a closing cash balance of only Rs 75
- Reported donations of just Rs 1.13 lakh
- No elected representatives at any level – no MPs, MLAs or local body councillors
- If the merger is approved, NCPI could become the 5th-largest party in the LS and the 2nd-largest NDA ally

The iron gate has long catalogues of identities of Uttiya and Shewly Kundu, who own the green-yellow two-storied building at Hatgachha, Sankrail, in Howrah.

Uttiya is not only the 'editor' of an unnamed daily, but also a teacher of mathematics, a yoga volunteer, a health consultant, a solar technician and a land surveyor. Shewly is an advocate at the Calcutta High Court, surveyor and "executive for enumeration".

They both boast post-graduate degrees in mathematics, apart from diplomas in the same subject from Alison, an online education platform based in Ireland.

What, however, is conspicuously absent in the overstuffed résumé of the Kundus is that they are the custodians of the Nationalist Citizen Party of India (NCPI), which is on the cusp of a remarkable transformation — from one of the countless obscure Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs) with no lawmaker anywhere in the country to the fifth largest entity in the Lok Sabha.

### Police deployment

As the 20 rebel Trinamool Congress members in the Lok Sabha chose NCPI as their new political transit home and brought the hitherto little-known outfit into the spotlight in West Bengal, police and paramilitary forces were deployed around the couple's residence — the registered headquarters of the party — on Monday.

The party also opened an account on Facebook, where it claimed that it was now the largest political entity from West Bengal in the Lok Sabha.

NCPI had fielded two candidates in the 2023 Assembly elections in Tripura but secured only 822 votes. The party also fielded a candidate in the panchayat elections at Jhorehat in Howrah that year, but failed to gain any traction.

After Sudip Bandopadhyay, a veteran TMC member in the Lok Sabha, announced the decision of the rebel parliamentarians merging with NCPI as a stopgap measure before making a legal move to claim the party's twin-flower election symbol, Shantanu Dey, the national organising secretary of the little-known party, first said he was not aware of the move.

Later, he changed his position and told journalists that he and other leaders of the party had an online meeting and welcomed the TMC rebels.

"I was the founder president of this party (NCPI). I have already resigned from the post of president. The new president of the party can give details. I don't know who the new president is," Shewly told journalists on Monday.

She said NCPI had supported NDA in the Assembly elections in Tripura. She also said that Dey had no longer been associated with the party. The NCPI page on Facebook had several posts on Monday, individually welcoming the Trinamool Congress rebels.

## Shah behind Trinamool split, says Congress

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** On a day when 20 rebel Trinamool MPs merged with the NCPI, the Congress on Monday alleged that "a desperate" Home Minister Amit Shah had "masterminded the illegal breakaway" of the lawmakers and that the move was part of a "strategy to engineer" a two-thirds majority for the NDA in the LS.

"Decency, decorum, and devotion to Constitutional values and principles remain vulnerable and threatened every day he continues in office," General Secretary Jairam Ramesh said on X.

Ramesh said the "desperate" Union Home Minister, who is "an absolute disgrace" to the position once held by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, has taken Indian democracy to "new lows in a shameless manner".

"He has masterminded the illegal breakaway of 20 TMC MPs and their wholly questionable fusion with an unheard-of and reportedly registered but unrecognised political outfit formed just three years ago," he said.

# Rebel TMC MLAs keep options open after MPs' merger move

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Ritabrata Banerjee.

The rebel Trinamool Congress MLAs in West Bengal on Monday kept their options open after 20 Lok Sabha MPs merged with a little-known Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI) and decided to back the BJP-led NDA.

The rebel MLAs were not part of the discussions that led to the decision of the MPs, led by Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, to seek separate seats in the Lower House and merge with NCPI.

Ritabrata Banerjee, who is leading a group of around 60 of the 80 MLAs and recognised by Speaker Rathindra Bose as the Leader of Opposition told *DH*, "As of now, we are not merging."

### 'Individual cult'

Banerjee said their entire campaign is against "individual cult" and whatever decisions had to be made, they will take it "collectively".

Earlier in the day, he had said that the decision to merge was taken by "their (MPs) collective" and they were unaware of any such move.

The Uluberia MLA had emerged as the pivot of the rebellion against Mamata, drawing support of more than two-third of the Trinamool lawmakers.

Kakoli and others on Monday merged with NCPI while no such move was initiated by the MLAs. For a party's merger, the support of two-third of its legislature party in Parliament as well as state Assemblies is required.

If Banerjee faction also decides to join the Kakoli group to merge with NCPI and support NDA in the state, he will lose the Leader of the Opposition post, as it will be the ruling bloc. The Uluberia Purba legislator claimed that he has the support of 65 MLAs.

As per provisions, a party with at least 10% of lawmakers is eligible for the post of Leader of the Opposition.

If one goes by Banerjee's numbers and this bloc decides to join NDA, the Mamata Banerjee-led group has less than 10% MLAs and it would be left to the mercy of the ruling party whether to relax the rule on providing Leader of Opposition status to the leader of the Trinamool Congress.

Meanwhile, rebel MP Arup Chakraborty said the breakaway faction would fight for the control of its election symbol of the Trinamool Congress.

The Mamata-led faction termed the move illegal under the anti-defection law.

"We have not left Trinamool Congress; we're in TMC and trying to rectify the party. Why did it get damaged, that is not being discussed. We will fight for the party symbol; we have 20 members, why should we not fight for the symbol... A new game has started... 'Khela Hobe'," Chakraborty was quoted by PTI as saying.

## BJP top brass meets amid buzz over central team reshuffle

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** Amid speculation about a reshuffle of the BJP's central team, senior leaders of the party, including Union minister Amit Shah, held a meeting on Monday at the residence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh here.

According to sources, BJP president Nitin Nabin, national general secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh and RSS pointman for the party Arun Kumar were also present at the meeting.

It is learnt that Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan also attended the meeting, which lasted for more than four hours.

While there was no official word from the BJP, the party sources said the meeting discussed a range of issues, including rejig of the central team of the party.

The BJP's new central team under Nabin, who took charge in January, is expected to be announced this month, with the sources suggesting that it will have a "mix of senior and younger leaders".

The sources also suggested that some holding positions in the government may also be moved to the party and assigned key responsibilities.

Women travel in a KSRTC bus after the inauguration of free bus travel for women under the Indira Guarantee Scheme, in Kerala's Kozhikode district, on Monday. PTI

# SPORT

## Phantom deliver a five-star show

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Dishan Singh Whengbam scored a brace in Bangalore Phantom FC's 5-0 rout of Muslim Heroes FC in a group match of the BDFA C Division League at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Monday.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Richardson Nongmaithem, HC MalsawmLumnga and Shiv Charan Mahato also found the net for the winners.

**Results: Group 15:** Bangalore Phantom FC: 5 (HC MalsawmLumnga 14th, Whengbam Dishan Singh 17th, 30th, Richardson Nongmaithem 34th, Shiv Charan Mahato 58th) bt Muslims Heroes FC: 0.
**Group 13:** Afghan FC: 1 (Daeshan M 47th) bt Postal Dept FC: 0.
**Group 14:** Bentex FC: 4 (Mohammed Danish 28th, 30th, Mihamned Rabeeh KP 29th, Muzam Mil 58th) bt ECD FC: 0; Universal FC: 3 (Nandan MD 17th, Suman MS 35th, Ginesh Kumar 60+1st) bt Dharma Raja Union FC: 0.
**Group 16:** Agram FC: 6 (Atmanu Baragohani 12th, Jarmidh P Vayalari 18th, Vijay 27th, Deva Jothi Shaji 32nd, Arun Kumar B 43rd, Sanju Jaison 48th) bt-UFA Banaswadi FC: 2 (Vishnu V 52nd, Arshin Manu 60th P).

## Iniyan records fifth straight victory

**MUMBAI, PTI:** GM Iniyan Pa continued with his winning spree in the Global Chess Festival but the third seeded GM Abhijeet Gupta lost his contest in the fifth round here on Monday.

Iniyan got the better of Ayush Sharma to take one-point lead over Akash Sharadchandra Dalvi and Soham Kamotra. Iniyan and Kamotra will face off in the sixth round.

As many as as 11 players are clubbed below these three at 3.5 points each.

Gupta lost to IM Sammed Jaykumar Shete, while Sankalp Gupta was defeated by IM Srihari.

ATHLETICS

# Mijo, Priya claim top spots at IAS 11

## State's Gopi wins 5000m run but falls short of World U-20 mark

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka's Mijo Chacko Kurian clocked 46.52 seconds to win the 400m gold at the Indian Athletics Series 11 in Kolkata on Monday.

Karnataka's 400m runner Mijo Chacko Kurian won the men's 400m in a depleted field at the Indian Athletics Series 11 in Kolkata on Monday.

With most of the key names competing in the Ludhiana and Thiruvananthapuram legs of the IAS over the past two days, 24-year-old Mijo clocked 46.52. The 25-year-old JSW athlete, whose personal best is 46.10, is aiming to breach the sub-46 mark in a bid for a spot in the Asian Games relay squad.

Mangaluru's Mijo, who finished second in the state championships earlier this month, is also included in the provisional squad for the National Inter-State Championships in Bhubaneswar, which is the final trials for the Asiad.

Karnataka's another quarter-miler Priya H M won the women's 200 event comfortably at 24.47 seconds while Gopi Saroj clocked 14:50.24 to win the men's U-20 5000m final. The effort, however, was well short of the qualification mark for the World U-20 Championships in the USA in August.

**Results: Winners and Karnataka only: 100m:** Dondapati Jayaram (Odi) 10.56s; **200m:** Astik Pradhan (Odi) 21.29; **400m:** Mijo C Kurian (Air) 46.52; **800m:** Shyam Milan Bind (UP) 1:49.93; **5000m:** Ravi Gulia (Rai) 14:09.94; **Long jump:** Jiwanmukti Bilung (Odi) 7.28m; **Shot put:** Air Rahul Krishna (Mah) 15.54; **Discus throw:** Ujjwal (Har) 48.57; **Javelin throw:** Amit Rohidas (Pol) 62.55. **U-20: Karnataka only: 5000m:** Gopi Saroj (Kar) 14:50.24. **Women: 100m:** Mousumi Roy (Odi) 12.06s; **200m:** Priya HM (JSW) 24.47; **400m:** Punitha Durairajan (TN) 56.11; **800m:** Lili Das (Utt) 2:06.51; **5000m:** Sanjivani Jadhav (Mah) 16:47.16; **Long jump:** Rimpi Buragohain (Ass) 6.28m; **Shot put:** Srishti Vig (Del) 15.33; **Javelin throw:** Arpita A Saho (Odi) 42.23.

## Fit-again Neeraj set to return at Doha DL

Fit-again Indian javelin throw superstar Neeraj Chopra on Monday announced that he will return to action at the Doha Diamond League on June 19, ending weeks of speculation about his competition calendar for the season, reports PTI from New Delhi.

The 28-year-old has been recuperating from a back injury which has prevented him from competing so far in the year.

"First throw of 2026 lands in Doha! Neeraj Chopra returns to competitive action on June 19," his management firm Vel Sports.

Chopra is a late addition to the event as his name was not in the list announced by the organisers on June 12. He has been training in Switzerland's Olympic Centre to prepare for the season.

# Sumit, Sahaja in tennis squad for Asiad

NEW DELHI, PTI

Sumit Nagal. DH FILE PHOTO

India's top-ranked singles players Sumit Nagal and Sahaja Yamalapalli will spearhead the country's tennis campaign at the 20th Asian Games in Japan as the All India Tennis Association (AITA) on Monday picked a six-member men's and women's squad for the continental showpiece.

The men's squad comprises world number 277 Nagal, young Manas Dhamne (ranked 378), last Davis Cup tie's hero Dhakshineswar Suresh (ranked 478).

There are three doubles specialists in the squad led by Yuki Bhambri (world number 24), N Sriram Balaji (world number 61) and Anirudh Chandrasekar (world number 90).

Karan Singh, Rithvik Bollipalli and Niki Kaliyanda Poonacha have been named as reserves.

In the women's section, India number one and world number 332 Sahaja Yamalapalli, Vaishnavi Adkar (396), Vaidehee Choudhari (417) are the singles players in the squad.

Rutuja Bhosale (ranked 125), Prarthana Thombare (181) and Ankita Raina (185) have been selected, with Zeel Desai and Shruti Ahlawat listed as reserves.

AITA secretary general Sunder Iyer said the selection committee had carefully assessed performances on the professional circuit before finalising the squad.

"The Selection Committee has carefully evaluated performances across the professional circuit and selected a team that combines experience, current form and future potential. We are confident that this group of athletes will represent India with distinction at the Asian Games in Nagoya," Iyer said.

The Asian Games will be held in Aichi-Nagoya from September 19-October 4.

AITA also extended its congratulations to the selected players and pledged full support in their preparations for the Games.

**Men:** Sumit Nagal, Manas Dhamne, Dhakshineswar Suresh, Yuki Bhambri, N Sriram Balaji, Anirudh Chandrasekar.
**Reserves:** Karan Singh, Rithvik Bollipalli, Niki Kaliyanda Poonacha.
**Women:** Sahaja Yamalapalli, Vaishnavi Adkar, Vaidehee Choudhari, Rutuja Bhosale, Prarthana Thombare, Ankita Raina.
**Reserves:** Zeel Desai, Shruti Ahlawat.

## Narang, Kunjarani in NSB panel

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** Olympic bronze-winning former shooter Gagan Narang and weightlifting great N Kunjarani Devi were on Monday named in the central government's five-member search-cum-selection committee to constitute the much-anticipated National Sports Board.

Cabinet Secretary TV Somanathan will head the panel which will also feature Hari Ranjan Rao, Secretary (Sports) and Lt General (Retd) Harpal Singh from the Indian Olympic Association.

Narang and Kunjarani are the requisite National Sports Awards winners in the committee.

The National Sports Board will act as the central authority responsible for granting recognition to National Sports Bodies and ensuring compliance with governance, financial and ethical standards.

## Deepika's brace in India's comeback win over USA

**AUCKLAND, PTI:** The Indian women's hockey team staged a remarkable comeback to clinch a 3-2 win over the USA in its opening Pool A match of the FIH Nations Cup here on Monday.

For India, Deepika **(in pic)** netted a brace while Navneet Kaur also scored. Ashley Sessa and Madeleine Zimmer were on the score-sheet for the USA. The winner of the Nations Cup will be promoted to the elite Pro league, from which India were relegated last season.

The USA got off to a great start and opened the scoring through Ashley, who found the back of the net with a field goal in the fourth minute.

The Americans doubled their advantage just three minutes later when Madeleine Zimmer (7th) converted a penalty corner to put India under early pressure.

Trailing by two goals, India gradually began to assert themselves in attack.

Their efforts paid off in the second quarter when drag-flick specialist Deepika (17th) successfully converted a penalty corner to reduce the deficit and bring India back into the game.

The momentum continued to shift in India's favour as they earned another penalty corner midway through the quarter.

Deepika (24th) stepped up once again and successfully converted another penalty corner to level the score at 2-2.

Navneet (28th) converted a penalty corner to hand India the lead for the first time in the match, ensuring the team entered the break with a 3-2 advantage.

Following the victory, India moved to second place in Pool A with three points, level with Japan, who lead the standings on goal difference.

## Bhullar ends as best-placed Indian

**RABAT, PTI:** Experienced golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar emerged as the best-performing Indian at the International Series Morocco here, closing with a final-round 1-over 73 to finish tied 31st at the USD 2 million Asian Tour event.

Bhullar, one of India's most decorated professionals with 11 Asian Tour victories and four AM Green IGPL wins, put together rounds of 70, 74, 68 and 73 for a four-day total of 6-under-par.

Ajeetesh Sandhu also found the conditions difficult and carded a 77 to finish alongside Kochhar in tied 61st position.

### Saptak's top 20 finish

Saptak Talwar, who looked set for a Top-10 finish, ultimately ended tied 17th at the Interwetten Open this week after carding a 2-under 67 in the final round in Oberhaus, Austria.

TEAMS: 48 VENUES: 16 TOURNAMENT SPAN: 39 DAYS

# Tenacious Japan snatch a dramatic draw

## Kamada's late intervention rescues Nippon as the Dutch squander lead twice

ARLINGTON (US), AFP

Japan scored an 89th-minute equaliser as they twice fought back to rescue a 2-2 draw with the Netherlands in Texas on Sunday to open their World Cup campaign.

A match in front of 69,285 spectators that had bubbled away in the first period sparked into life in the second half.

Netherlands skipper Virgil van Dijk scored with a fine header, only for Keito Nakamura to quickly level, before winger Crysencio Summerville's delicious curled finish into the bottom corner just after the hour.

The Dutch looked like they would hold on, but Japan levelled at the death with Crystal Palace midfielder Daichi Kamada credited with the goal after a deflection.

"We are not completely satisfied with the draw," said Japan coach Hajime Moriyasu, whose side face Tunisia on Saturday in a competitive-looking Group F.

| Japan | Netherlands |
|---|---|
| 2 | 2 |

"But the Netherlands are a top-class team and we tried to compete at the same level.

"We were tenacious but patient and kept calm."

Japan and the Netherlands are missing key players through injury, but on paper this was still one of the more attractive fixtures in the group stage.

Both have been touted as dark horses capable of going far at the tournament -- the Dutch have been runners-up three times whereas Japan have never gone beyond the last 16.

Netherlands coach Ronald Koeman, the former defender charged with finally delivering World Cup glory, was given a grilling by the media back home afterwards especially for his substitutions in the match.

"I am disappointed that we did not win," said Koeman, who pointed the finger at his side's defending.

"But I am not that negative," he said to one line of questioning that he took exception to.

The Netherlands made a confident start and nearly took the lead after three minutes, Donyell Malen swivelling and forcing a smart save from Zion Suzuki.

The impressive air-conditioned arena is usually home to the Dallas Cowboys, and at the hydration break the NFL team's cheerleaders were shown on the massive screen hanging over the pitch performing one of their routines.

The stoppage seemed to help the Dutch and Roma forward Malen again worked Suzuki with a header from a corner.

Japan's fans, who had hardly stopped singing and outnumbered the Dutch contingent, were briefly silenced.

The first real chance for Moriyasu's team came a few minutes before the break when a cross evaded the backtracking Summerville but Nakamura pulled his effort wide.

The Dutch had looked most threatening in the air, so it was no surprise when Liverpool talisman Van Dijk rose to plant a well-placed header into the bottom corner after a pinpoint cross from his club team-mate Ryan Gravenberch on 51 minutes.

The lead lasted just six minutes, Nakamura wriggling free and firing low past goalkeeper Bart Verbruggen, the ball taking a small deflection off Jan Paul van Hecke.

In a madcap period of play, the Dutch forged ahead once more on 64 minutes when West Ham's Summerville beat his man on the right wing and curled into Suzuki's bottom-right corner with his left foot. Both teams rang the changes and had chances to score again, before Kamada's chaotic leveller from a corner.

Japan are now placed third early in the Group F as Germany went top with a 7-1 win over Tunisia.

Keito Nakamura (right) and Daichi Kamada found the net against Netherlands in their group match in Texas on Sunday night. REUTERS

Cape Verde's goalkeeper Vozinha made multiple saves to deny Spain a victory in the opening Group H match. AFP

# Cape of good hope! Debutants hold mighty Spain

LOS ANGELES, AFP

Spain's ghosts of recent World Cup horror shows reappeared in Atlanta as the European champions were held 0-0 by debutants Cape Verde in their opening game on Monday.

Lamine Yamal was left on the bench as the Barcelona superstar is eased back to fitness after nearly two months out with a hamstring injury and even his appearance as a second-half substitute failed to break down Cape Verde's dogged defence.

Since winning the World Cup for the first time in 2010, Spain have not won a knockout game and their inability to make dominance of possession count was reminiscent of their meek exits in 2018 and 2022.

| Spain | Cape Verde |
|---|---|
| 0 | 0 |

Blessed with what coach Luis de la Fuente claimed is the best squad in the competition, Spain were considered among the pre-tournament favourites to go all the way and lift the World Cup on July 19. But the importance of Yamal and Nico Williams to their chances of success was underlined by a flat performance. Williams also had an injury-disrupted season at Athletic Bilbao and was not introduced until the 87th minute.

Ranked 67 in the world, Cape Verde were making their debut on the global stage and did a nation of just over 500,000 people proud.

In stark contrast to the searing temperatures faced by some other sides, Atlanta's state-of-the-art air conditioned stadium meant there was no excuses for the slow tempo of Spain's build-up.

Indeed the mid-half hydration break was met by boos with fans frustrated at the break in play despite the cool conditions.

It took until six minutes before half-time for Spain to seriously threaten. Marc Cucurella, fresh for sealing his move from Chelsea to Real Madrid, sent over a teasing cross that Ferran Torres turned onto the crossbar and Cape Verde goalkeeper Vozinha got back on his feet to turn Mikel Oyarzabal's looping header over the bar.

Cape Verde nearly snatched a famous victory in the final minute of the 90 when Dani Borges planted a header too close to Unai Simon.

Spain's road to victory in 2010 also began disappointingly with defeat to Switzerland.

## Brazilian media brickbats for Ancelotti

**NEW YORK, REUTERS:** Brazil's World Cup campaign was barely 90 minutes old before the national emergency sirens began wailing, with a flat 1-1 draw with Morocco in New Jersey leaving fans fretful, pundits furious and coach Carlo Ancelotti under pressure to grab the repair kit, reports Reuters from New York.

Carlo Ancelotti

Vinicius Jr's flash of individual brilliance rescued a point for the five-times world champions but did little to disguise a performance that Brazil's demanding football public greeted with alarm, especially after a first half widely savaged as dreadful.

The heaviest criticism was aimed at right back Roger Ibanez, midfielder Lucas Paqueta, striker Igor Thiago and defensive midfielder Casemiro, though Italian Ancelotti was hardly spared as his selection and tactical plan came under fierce scrutiny.

Paulo Vinicius Coelho, a columnist for website UOL, was especially cutting about Casemiro, describing him as "as slow as an old truck trying to climb a narrow road up the Pyrenees".

# Hungry Germans show no mercy

HOUSTON, AFP

Germany won their first opening match at a World Cup since lifting the trophy in 2014 as they eased to a 7-1 win against debutants Curacao in their opening Group E match in Houston on Sunday.

The Germans will face stiffer tests against group rivals Ecuador and Ivory Coast but the win against the tiny Caribbean nation puts them in a good position to progress to the knockout stages for the first time since 2014.

An early German goal by Felix Nmecha was cancelled out by a deflected strike from Livano Comenencia which had the Curacao fans, known as the Blue Wave, out of their seats in Houston.

| Germany | Curacao |
|---|---|
| 7 | 1 |

However, Nico Schlotterbeck, Kai Havertz with a double, Jamal Musiala, Nathaniel Brown and Deniz Undav scored to put to bed any possibility of one of the greatest upsets in World Cup history.

"It is indescribable," said 22-year-old Brown of his first ever goal for his country.

"To score in the first World Cup match, my family is there, then to celebrate with the guys -- simply incredible."

Germany settled early, Nmecha scoring a beauty in the sixth minute, receiving the ball from Florian Wirtz and curling the ball round a Curacao defender and past goalkeeper Eloy Room.

The goal had coach Julian Nagelsmann letting out a huge roar.

Nmecha, who like Musiala played for England at junior level before choosing Germany, went close minutes later with a rasping effort from outside the box.

German goalkeeper Manuel Neuer, who at 40 is the oldest German player ever to appear at a World Cup and is playing in his fifth global tournament, had had little to do until Comenencia struck with a shot which took a deflection.

While Germany's senior citizen shook his head ruefully, the oldest coach to ever appear at the finals, 78-year-old Dick Advocaat, was up out of his seat arms raised.

The drinks break allowed the Germans to regroup.

"The goal we conceded was unnecessary, but that's part of it," said Brown. "I'm proud that we didn't let our heads drop."

Soon after the restart Schlotterbeck's header was brilliantly turned over the bar by Room.

The four-time world champions huffed and puffed round the Curacao goal, but time and again desperate defending frustrated their Germans.

However, the Curacao defence cracked in the 38th minute when an unmarked Schlotterbeck headed home from a corner for his first goal for his country.

The Germans went into the break with a two-goal advantage as Havertz stroked home a penalty after Nmecha had been brought down by Riechedly Bazoer.

Germany struck 69 seconds into the second half, Musiala running on to Joshua Kimmich's pass and scoring from a tight angle.

It should have been 5-1 just after the hour mark but Leroy Sane sent his effort wide with only Room to beat.

Where Sane came up short Brown did not as the fullback fired home just before the second hydration break.

Substitute Undav made it six with his seventh goal in his last seven international appearances.

Havertz rounded it off with his 24th goal for Germany to replicate the same scoreline as they famously recorded against hosts Brazil in the 2014 semifinals.

Kai Havertz scored a brace in Germany's 7-1 thrashing of Curacao in Houston. REUTERS

# Sweden leave Tunisia in tatters

MONTERREY, AFP

Sweden crushed Tunisia 5-1 on Sunday to leave the North African nation's defensive reputation in tatters and seize control of World Cup Group F.

Graham Potter's men took the lead in Guadalupe in the seventh minute courtesy of Brighton midfielder Yasin Ayari's thunderbolt from outside the box, following a mix-up at the back.

| Sweden | Tunisia |
|---|---|
| 5 | 1 |

The celebrations of Ayari, who is of Moroccan and Tunisian descent, were muted despite his fine finish.

Sweden doubled their lead on half an hour after a rapid break freed Alexander Isak on the left.

The Liverpool forward raced forward and cut inside before unleashing a shot, which goalkeeper Mouhib Chamakh failed to keep out, even though he got a hand to the ball.

Tunisia did not concede a single goal in qualifying, becoming the first side to achieve that feat, subsequently matched by Ivory Coast and England.

Sweden threatened to overwhelm their opponents but the match changed complexion minutes before half-time when Omar Rekik headed home Hannibal Mejbri's teasing cross.

Yasin Ayari scored twice in Sweden's 5-1 win against Tunisia at the Monterrey Stadium in Guadalupe. AFP

Amad Diallo

# Diallo strikes late as Ivory Coast stun Ecuador

PHILADELPHIA, AFP

Manchester United's Amad Diallo struck in the 90th minute as Ivory Coast stunned Ecuador and their huge support to edge a tight affair 1-0 in their World Cup opener on Sunday.

The Group E encounter had looked set to finish 0-0, hardly a surprise given Ecuador's incredible defensive record during qualifying, and that result may well have suited both teams.

But the 23-year-old Diallo, who had been introduced in place of Bazoumana Toure shortly before the hour mark, had other ideas as he finished first-time from a right-wing cross right just as the game was heading for injury time.

| Ivory Coast | Ecuador |
|---|---|
| 1 | 0 |

It is Ivory Coast's first win at a World Cup in exactly 12 years, since they beat Japan in Brazil in 2014, and they can now be confident of making the knockout phase at the tournament for the first time.

It was a disappointing way to start for Ecuador, who had the majority of the 68,274 crowd at the packed Philadelphia stadium kitted out in yellow and backing them.

They hit the bar twice in the first half, through John Yeboah and Alan Minda, while Elye Wahi struck the same crossbar for the Ivorians after half-time.

Ivory Coast, African champions in 2024, will now hope to build on this when they play Germany in their next game in Group E in Toronto on Saturday.

The Ecuadorians will look to bounce back when they head to Kansas City the same day to play Curacao, the debutant minnows who were hammered 7-1 by Germany earlier in Houston.

Ecuador, coached by Argentinian Sebastian Beccacece, had a remarkable record in South American qualifying as they finished second behind Argentina.

With a defence marshalled by PSG's Willian Pacho and Chelsea's Moises Caicedo patrolling the midfield, they conceded a miserly five goals in 18 qualifying games.

TEAMS: 48 VENUES: 16 TOURNAMENT SPAN: 39 DAYS

FIFA WORLD CUP

## Japan fans' 'clean trash' wins hearts

Japan fans left the stands spotless after their World Cup opener against the Netherlands in Texas on Sunday, saying it was "Japanese culture" to tidy up after themselves, reports AFP from Arlington, USA.

Spectators stayed behind after the 2-2 draw to make sure they left the stadium as they found it, meticulously picking up litter and stuffing it into blue plastic bags.

"This is our culture, that means everywhere we go we need to clean it after ourselves, it's our spiritual way, our attitude," said Japan fan Futo Hagiwara.

## World Cup teams blast UEFA chief

A group of 13 World Cup teams on Sunday hit out at UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin over reported remarks in which he said this year's expanded tournament would lead to many "completely uninteresting" matches, reports AFP from Los Angeles.

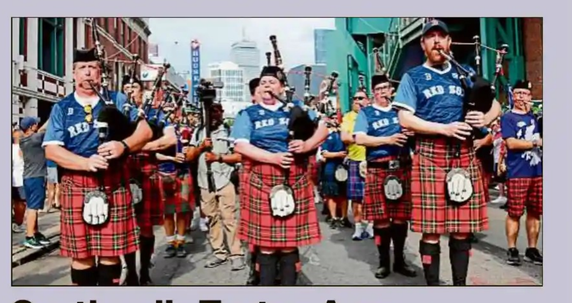
In a joint statement, the 13 football associations, said they "respectfully but firmly reject" Ceferin's comments quoted in Slovenian newspaper Delo.

"For our countries, there is no such thing as an unimportant World Cup match," read the joint statement by the 13 nations.

## Ebola risk for WC is 'extremely low'

The risk that a traveler infected with Ebola could arrive in the United States during the 2026 World Cup tournament that kicked off last week is low but not zero, and if that happens, US hospitals are ready to respond, US infectious disease experts say, reports Reuters from Chicago.

It wasn't always so. During the 2014 West African Ebola outbreak, a Liberian man, Thomas Eric Duncan, arrived in a Dallas hospital with Ebola symptoms and was turned away before being admitted. Two nurses were infected but survived.



## Scotland's Tartan Army treats baseball fans

Thousands of Scotland supporters who have descended on Boston for the World Cup took time off from football on Sunday to switch their focus to a different sport - baseball, reports Reuters from Boston.

The Tartan Army of travelling fans marched through the city to the strains of more than a dozen bagpipes to Fenway Park, home to the Boston Red Sox baseball team, a day after watching their team win their first match at a World Cup since 1990 with a 1-0 victory over Haiti. The Scotland supporters treated Red Sox fans outside and in the stadium - where the Red Sox were hosting the Texas Rangers - to their typically full-throated renditions of songs including 'Flower of Scotland,' used as an anthem by the national team.

## Depay is coming, says coach Koeman

Memphis Depay, the career international scoring leader for the Netherlands, entered in the 70th minute against Japan in Sunday's World Cup opener, reports AP from Arlington, USA.

There might be a hope for a return to the starting lineup for the Dutch star, who is nursing a thigh injury.

Depay, who has 55 international appearances, gave a thumbs-up to reporters when asked how he was feeling after Oranje's 2-2 draw against the Samurai Blue. "Memphis is almost ready," said coach Ronald Koeman

## Barred Somali ref to get full pay

Omar Abdulkadir Artan, the Somali referee who was barred from entering the United States to officiate World Cup matches, will receive full pay for the tournament from FIFA, reports Reuters.

Artan arrived in Miami on a flight from Istanbul on June 6, where he was denied entry into the country by US Customs and Border Protection.

In the aftermath of his denial into the United States, UEFA selected him to officiate the UEFA Super Cup match.

# 'United' Argentina chase a slice of history

### Scaloni's men seek to become first team since 1962 to win two consecutive WCs

All eyes will be on superstar Lionel Messi when Argentina kick off their World Cup campaign against Algeria. AFP

KANSAS CITY, REUTERS

Argentina start their bid for back-to-back World Cups on Tuesday with a side full of familiar faces from Qatar 2022, facing an Algerian team buoyed by warm-up wins and featuring a 20-year-old rising star nicknamed after Diego Maradona.

The reigning champions are looking to defy the statistics after climbing last week to the top of FIFA's rankings for the first time since July 2025, as no team holding that position at the start of the tournament has gone on to lift the trophy.

When they line up in Kansas City, all eyes will be on 38-year-old captain Lionel Messi, playing in a record sixth World Cup.

"I'm happy, savouring every moment and excited as ever," he said last week.

Still, coach Lionel Scaloni has concerns after left back Nicolas Tagliafico suffered a muscle injury in their 2-0 win over Honduras on June 6, forcing centre-back Facundo Medina to fill in during last week's 3-0 victory over Iceland.

Goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez, meanwhile, recovered from a finger fracture suffered during the warm-up for Aston Villa's Europa League final win and is expected to be in the starting lineup.

If Tagliafico is fit, Argentina's starting team would likely feature 11 players from the 2022 squad, with Scaloni relying on their experience as they seek to become the first side since Brazil in 1962 to win two consecutive men's World Cups.

The background, however, includes a shock defeat by Saudi Arabia in their opening match four years ago - an upset Algeria will be eager to replicate.

With Argentina clear favourites to top Group J, a strong performance against them would be key for Algeria as they battle Austria and Jordan to reach the round of 32. The African side boast a four-match unbeaten run that included a draw against twice world champions Uruguay and a 1-0 victory over the Netherlands. They recently extended coach Vladimir Petkovic's contract until 2028. Forwards Anis Hadj Moussa and Amine Gouiri combined for four goals in their last two games, including a 4-0 thrashing of Bolivia in a friendly.

Offensive midfielder Ibrahim Maza, nicknamed "Mazadona" at his club Bayer Leverkusen, voiced confidence that his team will be able to "beat Messi".

Argentina, who last lost in September 2025 to Ecuador and are on a seven-match winning streak, have other plans.

"Opponents will find it very hard to face Argentina, because this is a very strong, very united group," Messi said.

Senegal's Sadio Mane (left) and France's Kylian Mbappe will spearhead their teams' attacking battle. AFP

# Mbappe in spotlight as Les Bleus clash with Senegal

NEW YORK, REUTERS

Kylian Mbappe heads into France's World Cup opener against Senegal on Tuesday with questions swirling around him after a season that has left the country's biggest football star under immense pressure.

The France captain drew a blank in warm-up games against Ivory Coast and Northern Ireland and ended the season at Real Madrid without a trophy, despite finishing as La Liga's top scorer.

His performances, leadership and behaviour away from the pitch have become regular talking points after Real Madrid fell short in both the Champions League and the domestic title race.

Mbappe has also come under fire over his leadership since succeeding Hugo Lloris as captain in 2023, with 1998 World Cup winner Frank Leboeuf among those to question whether he is the right man to lead Les Bleus.

Yet inside the France camp, support for Mbappe appears unwavering.

Ballon d'Or winner Ousmane Dembele, who has emerged as one of the team's most influential figures, said the criticism directed at his long-time teammate and close friend had gone too far.

"The criticism towards him is very, very unfair," Dembele told Spanish newspaper Marca this week. Some people overdo the criticism because he's Kylian Mbappe. They shouldn't keep going after him. Whether he ties his shoelaces or not, whether he pulls up his socks or not, it's too much. He's still a human being. With the France team, he's very good with us, he's a leader."

Defender Lucas Hernandez struck a similar tone, saying Mbappe remained fully focused despite the noise around him. When you're Kylian Mbappe, everyone looks at everything you do, on the pitch and off the pitch," Hernandez said. "He's 100% motivated for the World Cup. All the criticism there has been this season, he's going to silence it."

France are among the favourites to lift the trophy and Didier Deschamps is embarking on his final tournament in charge, giving Mbappe an immediate opportunity to turn the conversation back to what he does best.

If there is one stage on which Mbappe rarely disappoints, it is the World Cup, where France will also face Iraq and Norway in Group I.

He has struck 12 times in 14 World Cup matches, leaving him only four goals short of Miroslav Klose's all-time record of 16 and offering a reminder of how quickly he can silence his critics.

Another goal would put him top of the list of France's all-time scorers alongside the retired Olivier Giroud (57).

**On Tuesday**

**Iran** vs **New Zealand** (6.30 am)

**On Wednesday morning**

**France** vs **Senegal** (12.30 am)

**Iraq** vs **Norway** (3.30 am)

**Argentina** vs **Algeria** (6.30 am)

All timings in IST

# Norway hope to get into groove against Iraq

BOSTON, REUTERS

Human goal machine Erling Haaland will seek to get his World Cup account up and running immediately when Norway take on Iraq on Tuesday to end the country's nearly three-decade absence from football's elite tournament.

The giant, rampaging centre forward netted 16 times in Norway's eight World Cup qualifying games and racked up an unmatched 27 Premier League goals for Manchester City last season.

Backed by an exciting roster of team-mates including Arsenal playmaker Martin Odegaard and wingers Antonio Nusa and Oscar Bobb, Haaland wants to bolster his chances of picking up FIFA's Golden Boot award against an Iraq side playing at the World Cup for the first time in 40 years.

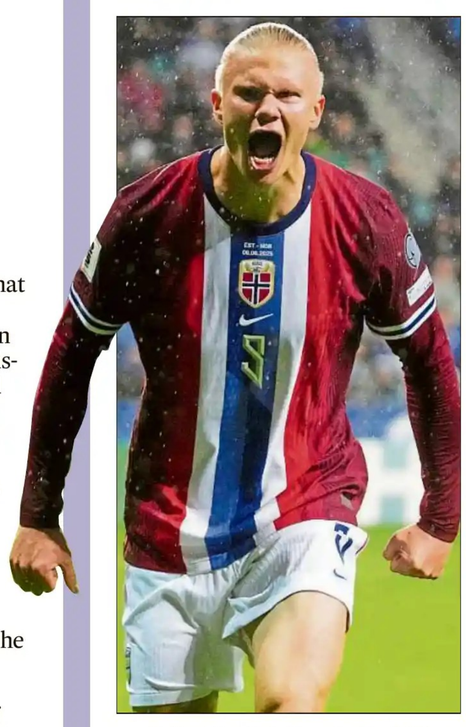
Haaland will come face to face with possibly his most likely challenger for that accolade - Kylian Mbappe - when Norway face France in their final Group I game on June 26.

Before then, Iraq and Senegal await with Tuesday's encounter with the Lions of Mesopotamia in Boston representing Norway's first match at a World Cup since 1998, when they lost to Italy in the round of 16.

That defeat was followed by a spectacular fall from grace for a team that had peaked as the world's second best in FIFA's rankings earlier in the 1990s.

Now, having scored the most goals of any European team during the World Cup qualifiers - Haaland's partner in attack Alexander Sorloth bagged five and Thelo Aasgaard got four - Norway could challenge France for top spot in Group I.

Standing in their way on Tuesday are an West Asian side Iraq, whose route to Boston was through an exhausting 21-match qualifying campaign.



Erling Haaland has netted 16 times in Norway's eight World Cup qualifying games. REUTERS

## Bellingham can be England's 'X factor': Henderson

**KANSAS CITY, AFP:** Jude Bellingham can be England's "X factor" at the World Cup as Thomas Tuchel's men chase a first major trophy for 60 years, Jordan Henderson said on Sunday.

England are among the favourites for the tournament in Canada, Mexico and the United States after a string of near-misses at recent European Championships and World Cups.

Henderson, speaking at England's Kansas City base, tipped fellow midfielder Bellingham, 22, to have a "big impact" over the next few weeks despite an injury-hit season.

The former Liverpool captain said the Real Madrid star had made huge progress since his international debut as a 17-year-old in 2020.

"How much he's grown as a player and as a person since then is incredible, really," said Henderson.

"I had a good idea when I first saw him playing and training and the way he was. But what he's done so far at such a young age, I think everybody forgets how young he is, even me really sometimes."

The Brentford player added: "I honestly couldn't speak highly enough of him. I know a lot gets written in the media. I find it hard to read sometimes, really, because I just know how big an influence he is on this team, how good a teammate he is off the field.

"And what he gives us is just something really special, really. I think he really gives us the X factor in our team.

"He's had big moments in his career. He's a big-game player. He's got experience in tournaments. So he's a huge, huge player for us in this tournament."

Jude Bellingham

## Impacted by politics but ignoring hype: Iran coach

**LOS ANGELES, AFP:** Iran's coach Amir Ghalenoei said on Sunday political tensions and visa issues have damaged his side's preparations for the World Cup but insisted his players will not "pay attention to any of the hype."

Iran have arrived at the tournament under the shadow of a bitter diplomatic row, after the United States -- in military conflict with Iran for months -- refused to issue visas for some team support staff.

They play their opener against New Zealand in Los Angeles on Monday, marking the first time that a host has hosted a country with which it is at war.

The Iran team bus, accompanied by a police escort, was met by a small group of anti-regime protestors at training. Much larger demonstrations are planned outside the stadium by members of the Iranian diaspora opposed to the nation's hardline regime, and there have been threats that the Iran team could walk off the pitch if anti-government banners are displayed.

Amir Ghalenoei

## RCB-GT final recorded 1.2 billion viewership

**MUMBAI, PTI:** The recently-concluded edition of the IPL recorded a viewership of 1.2 billion, a seven per cent year-on-year growth, according to the official broadcaster.

RCB defeated Gujarat Titans to clinch their second consecutive IPL title.

"TATA IPL 2026 reach soared over 1.2 billion, reflecting a growth of seven per cent year-on-year. The season kept viewers glued to screens as watch-time touched 870 billion minutes. The final, which culminated in RCB lifting the trophy for a second consecutive year, delivered a viewership double, becoming the most-watched TATA IPL match ever, reaching over 400 million across screens."

### IN BRIEF

## Karnataka ice-hockey teams win silver

▸ Karnataka's Under-12 boys' and girls' teams secured silver medals at the Ice Hockey National Championship held in Dehradun, Uttarakhand over the weekend, reports DHNS.

In the finals, Karnataka boys went down to Chandigarh while the state's girls lost to Andhra Pradesh.

## Stephen stars in Shlok HC win

▸ Stephen Swami went on a goal-scoring spree by netting four strikes that propelled Shlok Hockey Club to a 5-1 win over 5 'C' Sports Club in the KSHA Super Division Hockey League Championship on Monday, reports DHNS.

**Results:** Shlok HC: 5 (Stephen Swami 6th, 13th, 17th, 24th, Amid Khan 38th) bt 5 'C' SC: 1 (Govinda 28th); Falcon HC: 4 (Gowtham Ganapathy 4th, Sridhar 25th, Vivek 27th, Achaiah 32nd) bt Rainbow HC: 1 (Muthu Kumar 44th).

## Shreyansh, Dwija win

▸ Shreyansh Das and Dwija Anand won titles in their respective categories at the Karnataka State Under-9 Open and Girls Chess Championship held at the Soundarya Central School in Bengaluru, reports DHNS.

Shreyansh scored 8.5 out of nine points to claim the winners' trophy in the Open section with Kaustubh Tej Kumar finishing as runner-up (8).

In the girls section, Dwija was crowned champion (7.5) ahead of Dishani S (7) in second position.

**Results (Under-9 final, total nine points): Open: Winner:** Shreyansh Das (8.5 pts); **Runner-up:** Kaustubh Tej Kumar (8). **Girls: Winner:** Dwija Anand (7.5); **Runner-up:** Dishani S (7).

## Ex-Jr footballer no more

▸ SL Stany, former Karnataka junior and sub-junior player, passed away in Bengaluru on Monday, reports DHNS.

He was 66 and is survived by a wife and two daughters.

Stany was a striker during his junior days in the state team in the 1980s. He was also a part of the Santosh Trophy camp around the same time.

### ◆ ON TV ◆

**CRICKET**

**Women's T20 WC:** New Zealand vs Sri Lanka **(7 pm)**, England vs Ireland **(11 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

**FOOTBALL**

**World Cup:** France vs Senegal **(12:30 am, Wednesday)**, Iraq vs Norway **(3:30 am, Wednesday)**, Argentina vs Algeria **(6:30 am, Wednesday)**. **LIVE** on **Unite8 Sports, Zee App.**

**HOCKEY**

**FIH Pro League:** Belgium vs China **(women, 10 pm)**, Belgium vs Spain **(men, 12:30 am, Wednesday)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

**CRICKET** INDIA-AFGHANISTAN ODI

# Gill makes statement of intent

### India Test & ODI skipper keeps flourishing despite T20I snub

**SIDNEY KIRAN**
LUCKNOW, DHNS

India Test and ODI skipper Shubman Gill hasn't let exclusion from T20I side affect his game or leadership. PTI

Shubham Gill may have chosen diplomacy to address his unexpected exclusion from the T20 World Cup squad last December, but it's safe to assume that deep down, the stunning move by the selection committee would have stung him badly.

Considered the heir apparent to Virat Kohli since his early days with the Indian team, Gill was seated firmly on the throne when he was named the Test and ODI skipper in 2025 — all in a span of six months. And at the same time, he was serving as the deputy to T20I skipper Suryakumar Yadav, an indication that he was going to be the total leader of the current generation.

But crisscrossing continents and switching flannels and formats with barely any stopover time does take its toll on anyone, and the 26-year-old Gill felt it in the T20Is just before the World Cup at home. In the five-match series against Australia Down Under, he mustered just 132 runs, while against South Africa at home in December, he accrued just 32 runs in three games. With the T20 World Cup approaching fast, the selection committee and the team management promptly dropped Gill.

There were two ways of dealing with disappointment — either sulk or rise. Gill, whose sedate exterior betrays the typically Punjabi grit inside, figured the best way to respond is to make the bat talk. And since the beginning of the IPL, Gill has been in sensational touch, showing why he's still one of the most accomplished all-format batters in the world.

In the two-month-long IPL, the Gujarat Titans skipper hammered 732 runs from 16 matches at a strike rate of 163.02 — the best of his career since first joining Kolkata Knight Riders in 2018. Unlike the modern-day T20 template of hell-for-leather from ball one, Gill relies on a slightly old-school approach of taking his time and then pressing the pedal. The chances of failure are somewhat less, and he, along with his team-mate and opening partner Sai Sudharsan, were extremely effective at it. For the record, GT entered a third IPL final where they lost to defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

Gill, following a five-day break, was back to leading India in the one-off Test against Afghanistan in Mullanpur. The right-hander took off from where he had left off, top-scoring with 126 as India bundled the minnows inside three days. Then, after four days, Gill was in Dharamsala for the opening ODI versus the same opponents on Saturday. He barely showed any weariness as he anchored a tricky chase to perfection, scoring an unbeaten 84 off 66 balls to earn the Player of the Match in the rain-curtailed game.

The heavy downpour in the scenic venue reduced the affair to 25 overs a side, and Gill brought his IPL acumen to the fore to help India chug along smoothly against a tricky side who have beaten all Full Member nations in at least one format except the Men In Blue. He bided his time at the start owing to the challenging conditions before effortlessly switching on the gears.

The road back to the T20 side may be difficult at the moment for Gill, but the main agenda on his mind will be the ODI World Cup scheduled for October-November 2027. It's also a format tailor-made for his style of batting, where he averages a whopping 57.3 from 62 matches with a highest score of 208. And he'll be looking to exert his dominance over the next six months where India are scheduled to play a good number of ODIs.

# Wanted to give up cricket: Shreyanka

### 'I'd be lying if I said I wasn't depressed but I love this sport'

BIRMINGHAM, PTI

India off-spinner Shreyanka Patil has revealed that she struggled with depression and even considered quitting cricket during a challenging injury layoff that kept her out of action for more than a year.

The off-spinner, who delivered an economical spell in India's 64-run victory over Pakistan in the Women's T20 World Cup here on Sunday, credited her strong support system for helping her navigate the difficult period and make a successful return to the national side.

Shreyanka spent nearly 14 months on the sidelines after a fractured finger sustained during an Asia Cup match against Pakistan in July 2024.

Her injury woes continued with severe shin issues in both legs and a fractured left thumb, before she finally returned to action for Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the WPL earlier this year.

"I'd be lying if I said I wasn't depressed or that I didn't think about giving up cricket. That's how I felt initially during the injury phase. But there was a voice inside me saying, 'No matter what, I love playing this sport. I'm here only because I love playing it'," Shreyanka told JioStar.

"So, I couldn't give up on something I love doing. I kept my head high, my dad kept talking to me, and my family supported me throughout. The atmosphere around me and the strong support system I had, I was always surrounded by great people. That kept me going.

"I love being back on the field now, and I won't let that feeling go," added the spinner who conceded just 17 runs in three overs as India defended a 170-run total with ease against arch-rivals Pakistan.

While the powerplay often tilts the balance in favour of batters, Shreyanka said she enjoys the challenge of operating in those high-pressure overs.

"I've always enjoyed bowling in the powerplay, whether it's for my state team or for India. It's amazing to bowl under pressure because that's what I love doing, and it's something I've successfully done in the past.

"It was fun bowling to a left-hander. We had a couple of missed chances, but Deepti's (Sharma) five-wicket haul made up for it all. It's a great win for us to start the tournament, and we did so with a convincing margin."

Shreyanka Patil.

# Deepti: India's cricketer for all seasons

India all-rounder Deepti Sharma is now the leading wicket-taker in T20I cricket. AFP

**VIGNESH BHARADWAJ**
BENGALURU, DHNS

Ask the most feared or technically sound batters in the women's game who they would face during the course of their innings, and the majority would not say Deepti Sharma.

However, for someone who has been the engine room of the Indian side for a while, the 28-year-old all-rounder has not received the same plaudits bestowed on her team-mates Smriti Mandhana, Harmanpreet Kaur or even Jemimah Rodrigues.

Unfair as it may seem, that's the way of the world. Deepti -- the Player of the Tournament in India's triumphant ODI World Cup campaign last year -- never makes a song and dance about this "disparity", but what she does is make batters dance to her tunes.

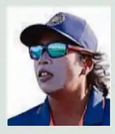
On Sunday, she picked up her career-best 5/10 in India's 64-run win over Pakistan, and in the process became the leading wicket-taker in T20Is, with 166 scalps in 145 games.

"First of all, Deepti is one of the finest all-rounders we've ever seen," India great Jhulan Goswami tells *DH*.

"When Deepti made her debut, she was a pure all-rounder who could bat at any number and was a quality off-spinner. She has worked very hard for her game to evolve. When the captain needs a wicket, India go to Deepti. She's been among the most consistent performers for this side."

Deepti, with her bag of tricks and a good cricketing brain, is also the first Indian with multiple five-fors in women's T20Is. The Uttar Pradesh-born star now sits among the best spinners in the world, and if one thing has stood out, it is her tactical acumen.

**JHULAN GOSWAMI**
Former India fast bowler



"In a way, Deepti's been growing from strength to strength. It's amazing. She's established herself as the go-to option for India, which is good to see.

The four overs against Pakistan were another evidence of Deepti's vision to know what works on a certain (slow in this case) surface, the skill to exploit conditions, and the ability to land it where she wants time and again.

"India have been in England for a bit and I am sure Deepti has been preparing in a way that she understands the wicket, the conditions, assesses the situation and executes her tactics. She has that skill. That's her biggest strength. And importantly, her basics are strong. I believe for longevity, one needs to have really strong basics."

Deepti (354 wickets), is just one wicket away from equalling Jhulan (355), who leads the wicket-taking column in women's internationals, and her former team-mate could not be happier.

"I will be really happy when she crosses that number. It only brings joy for me, and more importantly, it is helping the Indian side move forward. I have a lot of fond memories with Deepti, and I am so happy that she will be achieving that milestone. Hope she keeps adding to it and that will only help the Indian team to the next level."

However, it has not been all sunshine for the UP cricketer. She endured a prolonged rough patch with both bat and ball in the lead up to the T20 World Cup. And during the South Africa series, pressure was creeping in and the naysayers were ready to write her off. While India lost 4-1, Deepti regained her form with 5/19 in Johannesburg, and has not looked back since.

"I don't think that question has ever come up in the Indian team. Yes, after the ODI World Cup, she has had a bit of a tough patch. These things happen. It is natural. When you peak, you also have to see the downs. However, she is a natural fighter. She has proved that she is one of the most important members of this side."

## Deepak, Poonam progress on a mixed day for boxers

**GUIYANG (CHINA), PTI:** Deepak and Poonam emerged as the lone Indian winners on the opening day of the Boxing World Cup (Stage 2) here on Monday, advancing to the next round of their respective categories while seven others suffered defeats.

Poonam defeated Uzbekistan's Aziza Yokubova in the round of 32 at the Boxing World Cup (Stage 2) on Monday. BFI

Competing in the women's 54kg category, Poonam registered a convincing 5-0 victory over Uzbekistan's Aziza Yokubova in the preliminary round of 32 to move ahead in the competition.

Deepak joined her in the next round after producing an equally dominant display in the men's 70kg division, defeating Turkmenistan's Bayramdurdy Nurmuhammedov by a unanimous 5-0 verdict in the preliminary round of 32.

The remaining Indian boxers, however, could not progress further.

In the preliminary round of 16, Rishi Singh (50kg) lost to Azerbaijan's Subhan Mamedov, while Sanamacha Chanu Thokchom (75kg) went down against Canada's Tammara Thibeault. Sawan Gill also bowed out after suffering a defeat to Norway's Omar Shiha in the men's 90kg category.

In other preliminary contests, Anmol (60kg) was narrowly beaten 2-3 by Salim Ellis Bey (USA). Meanwhile, Harsh Choudhary (90kg) had his bout stopped prematurely, losing to Sweden's Elwin Belezika via Referee Stops Contest due to Injury [RSC (I)] in the third round.

India also endured disappointment in the quarterfinals as Naina lost to China's Xiaomeng Wang in the women's 80kg category.

## McCullum 'worried' about Stokes after curfew incident

**LONDON, AFP:** England head coach Brendon McCullum said he is "worried" about Ben Stokes after the captain was involved in a late-night incident that led to his absence from this week's second Test against New Zealand.

Stokes will miss the clash at the Oval after breaching a midnight curfew while celebrating England's win over the Black Caps in the first Test at Lord's.

Stokes Gus Atkinson became embroiled in an incident involving Saracens rugby player Totoa Auvaa, prompting an internal investigation by the England and Wales Cricket Board.

There were suggestions that Stokes would resign or even retire in the immediate aftermath.

A sombre McCullum said he experienced a range of emotions from anger to concern when he learnt of Stokes' antics at a Chelsea nightspot.

"For me I'm just making sure I'm checking in with him. "I'm worried about Ben. That's it," he said. "I'll leave it at that."

# Tempers flare as SL A win Super Over vs Ind A

DAMBULLA, PTI

Sri Lanka A finally found a way to get over the line against India A following a Super Over in an emotionally charged tri-series game here on Monday.

Tempers flared after Kugathas Mathulan, the Sri Lanka pacer with a slingy action, was able to keep calm under pressure and defend 17 runs against the destructive Indian duo of Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and Suryansh Shedge.

Physical contact too happened as Sooryavanshi was seen pushing a Sri Lankan player following the dramatic finish.

It was surprising that Sooryavanshi did not face the first ball of the Super Over.

In regulation time, left-arm pacer Arshad Khan bowled a yorker filled final over to take the game into the Super Over after Sadeera Samarawickrama's sublime 91 off 113 to put Sri Lanka A on the cusp of victory.

India A's Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (centre) was seen pushing a Sri Lankan player following the dramatic finish to the match in Dambulla on Monday. X

Arshad, who played for Gujarat Titans in the IPL, conceded just four runs in the final over in which the hosts needed only five runs.

Post the tie result, confusion prevailed over the outcome of the game with India A captain Tilak Varma pushing the umpires to carry on with the game via a Super Over.

After due deliberation, the umpires had a change of heart and decided the take the game into a Super Over.

However, the Super Over bowled by Arshad turned out to be expensive as he leaked 16 runs including a wide and no ball.

It was India A's second loss in the competition, having also gone down against Afghanistan A.

**Brief scores:** India A: 265 in 49.2 overs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 37, Suryansh Shedge 72, Vipraj Nigam 51; Mohamed Shiraz 3-33, Vijayakanth Viyaskanth 3-26) lt to Sri Lanka A: 265/9 in 50 overs (Niroshan Dickwella 37, Sadeera Samarawickrama 93, Wanuja Sahan 25; Ayush Badoni 2-45). **Result:** Match tied (Sri Lanka A won the Super Over).

## Holder, Joseph help Windies clinch series 2-1

**KINGSTON (JAMAICA), AP:** Sherfane Rutherford reached his half-century in the last over of a dramatic run chase as West Indies completed a series-clinching five-wicket win with two deliveries to spare in the third T20I against Sri Lanka.

Rutherford was unbeaten on 54 from 40 deliveries and Jason Holder clobbered three sixes in the penultimate over, finishing 21 not out off five balls as West Indies reached 170/5 in reply to Sri Lanka's 169.

Two costly missed catches during Rutherford's innings hurt Sri Lanka's chances of taking the series after the first two games were split.

West Indies went into the deciding game with an attacking focus, deciding to bowl first after winning the toss.

**Brief scores:** Sri Lanka: 169 in 20 overs (Pathum Nissanka 26, Kamil Mishara 28, Dunith Wellalage 43; Shamar Joseph 5-33) lt to West Indies: 170/5 in 19.4 overs (Shimron Hetmyer 32, Rovman Powell 33, Sherfane Rutherford 54 n.o.; Wanindu Hasaranga 2-17). **Result:** WI won by 5 wickets. **PoM:** Jason Holder. **Series:** WI won the 3-match series 2-1.

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